

Classroom Library Project Fall Semester Book List



DEATH AND DYING			
1	The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages	Leo Buscaglia	This story is a warm, wonderfully wise and strikingly simple story about a leaf named Freddie. How Freddie and his companion leaves change with the passing seasons, finally falling to the ground with winter's snow, is an inspiring allegory illustrating the delicate balance between life and death. Ages 4 and up
2	Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing After Loss	Pat Schwiebert	A family story book that centers around an old and somewhat wise woman, Grandy. Grandy has just suffered a big loss in her life and so she is headed to the kitchen to make a special batch of Tear Soup. To season her soup Grandy adds memories like the good times and the bad times, the silly and the sad times. She does not want to forget even one precious memory of her loss. Ages 8 and up
3	I Miss You: A First Look at Death	Pat Thomas	When a close friend or family member dies, it can be difficult for children to express their feelings. This book helps boys and girls understand that death is a natural complement to life, and that grief and a sense of loss are normal feelings for them to have following a loved one's death. There are full-color illustrations on every page. Ages 4 and up
4	When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death	Laurie Krasny Brown	The authors explain in simple language the feelings people may have regarding the death of a loved one and the ways to honor the memory of someone who has died. Ages 4 - 8
5	Grandma's Purple Flowers	Adjoa J. Burrowes	Grandma's house has always been the narrator's favorite place. On her way to visit Grandma, she plucks daisies and sunflowers, and best of all, purple flowers--Grandma's favorites. Whenever Grandma sees the purple flowers, her smile grows wide--like the Mississippi River. When Grandma passes away in the winter, the young girl is sad, missing her grandmother terribly. When spring finally arrives, and flowers begin to shoot up from the ground, the girl discovers her own special way to accept her grandmother's death and keep Grandma with her always. Ages 4 and up
6	Janna and the Kings	Patricia Smith	Janna loves the Saturday visits that she and her grandfather make to the local barbershop where she becomes a princess, but after he dies, Janna feels as though her world has changed. Ages 5 and up
LIVING WITH A DISORDER OR DISABILITY			
7	My Friend Isabelle	Eliza Woloson	In this 2004 iParenting Media Award Winner, Isabelle and Charlie are friends. They both like to draw, dance, read, and play at the park. They both like to eat Cheerios. They both cry if their feelings are hurt. And, like most friends, they are also different from each other. Isabelle has Down's Syndrome. Charlie doesn't. Written by Isabelle's mother, this charming tale encourages readers to think about what makes a friendship special. Ages 4 and up
8	Be Good to Eddie Lee	Virginia Fleming	In this touching picture book, a girl discovers a new capacity for friendship when she spends some time with a neighbor boy who has Down's Syndrome. Christy's mother has told her to "be good to Eddie Lee," because he is



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			"lonesome" and "different." Christy, however, would rather go wading with her friend JimBud than be pestered by Eddie Lee. But when Eddie Lee, uninvited, follows the two kids, Christy reluctantly includes her neighbor and is pleasantly surprised at how the afternoon turns out. Ages 4-8
9	Now One Foot, Now the Other	Tomie dePaola	This touching story about a young boy coping with his grandfather's disability has long been one of Tomie dePaola's most popular picture books. Readers of all ages will love to watch Grandpa Bob teach Bobby to walk, and how Bobby returns the favor when Bob has a stroke, all in beautifully rich full color. Ages 5-8
10	A Picture Book of Helen Keller (Picture Book Biography)	David A Adler	As he did in his other picture-book biographies, Adler concentrates here on the childhood of his subject. There is enough information given for readers to understand Keller's frustration and to see the enormous help that Sullivan gave her. Details of the mean things she did to her mother and friends before meeting Sullivan clarify this even further. The way in which Keller learned that objects had names is included; the book then shifts to her college years and touches on highlights of her life including visiting soldiers, writing, and lecturing. Ages 6 and up
11	Ian's Walk	Laurie Lears	Julie can't wait to go to the park and feed the ducks with her big sister. Her little brother, Ian, who has autism, wants to go, too. Ian doesn't have the same reactions to all the sights and sounds that his sisters have, and Julie thinks he looks silly. Ages 6-9
12	Moses Goes to a Concert	Isaac Milman	Moses and his school friends are deaf, but like most children, they have a lot to say. They communicate in American Sign Language, using visual signs and facial expressions. And even though they can't hear, they can enjoy many activities through their other senses. Today, Moses and his classmates are going to a concert. Their teacher, Mr. Samuels, has two surprises in store for them, to make this particular concert a special event. Ages 5-8
13	The Black Book of Colors	Menena Cottin	Living with the use of one's eyes can make imagining blindness difficult, but this innovative title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery. Braille letters accompany the illustrations and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers. This extraordinary title gives young readers the ability to experience the world in a new way. Ages 5-10
14	Mrs. Gorski, I Think I Have the Wiggle Fidgets (a story about attention, distraction, and creativity)	Barbara Esham	David doesn't know how he ends up in such situations. At the time, it just seems like a great idea. His teacher, Mrs. Gorski, has had about enough; he can tell by the way her voice changes when she speaks to him. This time, he believes that he has come up with the best idea yet. The perfect plan to make everything better. Ages 6-8.
CHRONIC CONDITIONS			
15	Mommy, I Feel Funny! A Child's Experience with	Danielle M. Rocheford	Based on a true story, this book introduces the reader to Nel, a little girl who is diagnosed with epilepsy. The story



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	Epilepsy		takes you through the days following Nel's first seizure. Suddenly, Nel and her family are faced with thoughts, fears and emotions that come with the discovery, understanding and acceptance of epilepsy.
16	The Princess and the Peanut Allergy	Wendy McClure	Regina and her mom are busy preparing for her birthday party. It's going to be a princess party with the perfect cake that looks like a castle and has ice cream cone towers. Regina is inviting all the girls in her class, including her best friend, Paula. Paula is excited, too, until she finds out about the cake. It will have nutty fudge brownies and peanut butter candies. Paula can't eat that cake--she can't go anywhere near that cake--because she has a peanut allergy. Regina really wants her cake, and she and Paula fight about it. That afternoon they both go home mad. But that night, after Regina reads her favorite story, "The Princess and the Pea," she thinks more about her friend and the cake. The next morning she has a great plan that will please everyone. Ages 6-9
17	Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	Eleanor Corr	Hiroshima-born Sadako is lively and athletic--the star of her school's running team. And then the dizzy spells start. Soon gravely ill with leukemia, the "atom bomb disease," Sadako faces her future with spirit and bravery. Recalling a Japanese legend, Sadako sets to work folding paper cranes. For the legend holds that if a sick person folds one thousand cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again. Based on a true story, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes celebrates the extraordinary courage that made one young woman a heroine in Japan. Ages 8 and up
18	Adam's Gluten Free Surprise: Helping Others Understand Gluten Free	Debbie Simpson	This book shares Adam's experiences as he goes through the first six months of a new school year just after being diagnosed with celiac. He faces each special treat day with a positive attitude, knowing he can choose from his own box of gluten free treats. Watch as his teacher, Mrs. Brown, learns how to accommodate his needs by reading labels and avoiding cross contamination. In the end, Adam's class surprises him with a party that is completely gluten free. Adam's Gluten Free Surprise is about the acceptance that is required by the child with a special diet and of the understanding required by those who are important parts of his or her life.
19	Taking Diabetes to School	Kim Gosselin	This color illustrated book for elementary age children contains an instructive story of a grade-schooler with diabetes who tells his classmates about the disease and how he manages it. The story offers sensitive insight into the day-to-day school life of a child with a chronic illness. Ages 4 and up
20	The Goodbye Cancer Garden	Janna Matthies	After Mom and Dad tell Janie and Jeffrey that Mom has cancer, the whole family goes to the doctor to ask questions. "Is Mom better yet?" Jeffrey asked. "Not yet," she said. "But we're working very hard to make her better--probably by pumpkin time." That gave Janie an idea...the family plants a vegetable garden. As the garden grows,



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			Mom's treatment progresses...surgery, chemo, head-shaving and other side effects, radiation...and when it's all done, there are healthy pumpkins and a healthy Mom! Ages 6-10
21	Abby's Asthma and the Big Race	Theresa Golding	Abby has asthma, but that doesn't stop her from wanting to run in the big race. Although she is pretty fast, sometimes she may cough or wheeze and have an asthma attack. Jason, a boy in her class, teases her about her asthma and suggests she enter the pie-eating contest instead. But Abby is determined not only to run in the race, but to win it as well. With her doctor's approval and recommendations, she exercises every day with her father, takes her medicine, and does her breathing exercises in anticipation of the big day. When that day arrives, Abby is ready. Will she beat Jason to the finish line? Ages 6-9
22	Singing with Momma Lou	Linda Jacobs Altman	Nine-year-old Tamika Jordan dreads visiting her grandmother at the nursing home. Momma Lou has Alzheimer's and always forgets who Tamika is. After her father shows her Momma Lou's scrapbooks, Tamika comes up with an idea to jog Momma Lou's memory. Tamika is successful in reaching her grandmother one day when Momma Lou recognizes a newspaper clipping of a Civil Rights demonstration and leads everybody in a celebration of song. Ages 7 - 10
MENTAL HEALTH			
23	A Terrible Thing Happened	Margaret Holmes	Sherman Smith saw the most terrible thing happen. At first he tried to forget about it, but soon something inside him started to bother him. He felt nervous for no reason. Sometimes his stomach hurt. He had bad dreams. And he started to feel angry and do mean things, which got him in trouble. Then he met Ms. Maple, who helped him talk about the terrible thing that he had tried to forget. Now Sherman is feeling much better. This gently told and tenderly illustrated story is for children who have witnessed any kind of violent or traumatic episode, including physical abuse, school or gang violence, accidents, homicide, suicide, and natural disasters such as floods or fire. Ages 4 and up
24	Mr. Worry: A Story About OCD	Holly Niner	Kevin can't get to sleep at night until he does many things. He checks under his bed for a light he knows isn't there, and then, a minute later, he checks again. Kevin wants to stop, but the worry thoughts keep coming. Ages 7-10
25	Brandon and the Bipolar Bear	Tracy Anglada	Brandon and the Bipolar Bear is the winner of the <i>About.com 2011 Reader's Choice Award</i> for Favorite Special-Needs Children's Book. By reading the pages of this beloved book, children and adults alike receive a rare glimpse into the private feelings and fears of a bipolar child as he cycles between depression and mania. Ages 4 - 11
26	Is a Worry Worrying You?	Ferida Wolffe and Harriet May Savitch	Adults think of childhood as a carefree time, but the truth is that children worry, and worry a lot, especially in our highly pressurized era. This book addresses children's worries with humor and imagination, as hilarious scenarios teach kids the use of perspective and the art of creative problem-solving. Ages 4-8

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27	Nobody's Perfect: A Story for Children About Perfectionism	Ellen Flanagan Burns	Sally Sanders is good at everything she does, or so it seems. Secretly she is afraid that if she can't do something well, or be the best, she will feel like a failure. She is scared that she is not "good enough." As a perfectionist, hitting the wrong note at a piano recital, or not making the soccer team feels like the end of the world! Gradually, through the help of her teachers and mother, Sally learns to have fun and not worry so much about being the best. She realizes that making mistakes is a part of learning, and that doing her best is good enough. Ages 8 and up
28	Little Tree	Loren Long	In the middle of a little forest, there lives a Little Tree who loves his life and the splendid leaves that keep him cool in the heat of long summer days. Life is perfect just the way it is. Autumn arrives, and with it the cool winds that ruffle Little Tree's leaves. One by one the other trees drop their leaves, facing the cold of winter head on. But not Little Tree—he hugs his leaves as tightly as he can. Year after year Little Tree remains unchanged, despite words of encouragement from a squirrel, a fawn, and a fox, his leaves having long since turned brown and withered. As Little Tree sits in the shadow of the other trees, now grown sturdy and tall as though to touch the sun, he remembers when they were all the same size. And he knows he has an important decision to make. Ages 5 and up