

Death and Grieving

Summary

Students will learn about the stages of grief, identify the common physical reactions to grief, and learn how the grieving process applies to many types of losses.

Additional Core Ties

Adult Roles and Financial Literacy

[Strand 6 Standard 6](#)

Materials

- [Vocabulary worksheet](#)
- [Death and Grieving PowerPoint presentation](#)
- [Where Do the Sparrows Go When They Die? handout](#)
- [Coping with Crisis teacher information](#)
- [Dealing with Death listening guide](#)
- [Dealing with Death discussion guide](#)
- [Terms associated with death student worksheet and answer key](#)
- [Obituary/Eulogy worksheet](#)

Additional Resources:

- *My Life*
, Columbia Tristar Home Video, ISBN 0-8001-2978-4, available at video rental stores.
- *Death Education Resource Book*
, June M. Brinkman and Tresa F. Quarles, J. Weston Walch, Publisher, P.O. Box 658, Portland, Maine 04104-0658.
Check with a community mental health center for referrals to professionals or support groups.
- *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*
, Leo Buscaglia, Ph.D., ISBN 0-8050-1064-5.
- *Badger's Parting Gifts*
, by Susan Varley, ISBN 0-688-11518-7.
- *Final Gifts--Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying*
, by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley, ISBN 0-553-56139-1.
- *On Death and Dying*
, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, ISBN 0-02-089141-5.
- *Talking about Death--A Dialogue between Parent and Child*
, by Earl A. Grollman, ISBN 0-8070-2363-9

Instructional Procedures

Vocabulary

Use the [vocabulary worksheet](#) (pdf) with students.

Primary Vocabulary

Autopsy
Bereaved
Condolence
Coroner
Deceased

Eulogy
Living Will
Morgue
Mortuary
Mourning
Obituary
Wake
Will

Supplementary Vocabulary

Epitaph
Interment

FCCLA Activity Option

Power of One: Family Ties -- Get along better with family members. Use the information found at <http://www.fcclainc.org/content/power-of-one/>

FACTS-Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety - found at <http://www.fcclainc.org/content/factsfamilies-acting-for-community-traffic-safety/>

Families First - found at <http://www.fcclainc.org/content/families-first/>

Introduction/Pre-Assessment

Read either the children's book *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*, Leo Buscaglia, Ph.D., ISBN 0-8050-1064-5, or

2. *Badger's Parting Gifts*
, by Susan Varley, ISBN 0-688-11518-7

Process questions:

What was main character in the book?
What was their role in the book?
What impact did they have on the other characters?
What was theme of the book?
What can we learn from this book?

Content Outline, Activities and Teaching Strategies

(All options do not necessarily need to be taught. Select ones to cover standards and objectives and according to your district policies.)

Option 1: Coping with Crisis

Use the [Death and Grieving PowerPoint presentation](#) discuss the reactions to death, dying, stages of grief, and common physical reactions to grief. Read the story [Where do the Sparrows Go When they Die](#) (pdf) and ask students to tell about a time in their lives when they had grieved. Present the [Coping with Crisis teacher information](#) (pdf) to the students.

Option 2: Dealing with Death

Continue with the [Death and Grieving PowerPoint](#). Give students information on how to deal with death - the [Dealing with Death discussion guide](#) (pdf). Use the answers to the [Death Listening Guide](#) (pdf) as notes for a lecture as you discuss the information.

Option 3: Terms Associated with Death

Have students complete this [matching activity](#) (pdf) which covers the terms associated with death then discuss them with the class.

Option 4: Obituary/Eulogy

Using the [Obituary/Eulogy assignment sheet](#) (pdf), have each student write a future personal obituary or eulogy. The purpose of this worksheet is to get students thinking about what they are doing with their lives. Are they heading down the pathways that will take them to the destinations they seek?

Option 5: Epitaph

Have students draw a picture of the type of headstone they would like, including the epitaph by which

they would like to be remembered.

Option 6: Guest Speaker

Have someone from a local hospice be a guest speaker to discuss dealing with grief.

Option 7: Video

Show the video clip *My Life*. This video is about a terminally ill man (Michael Keaton) and reviews the stages of grief, hospice, planning for the future of his family, etc. (Columbia Tristar Home Video, ISBN 0-8001-2978-4, available at video rental stores).

Option 8: Reference Books

You may wish to have students do some outside reading on how to deal with death and dying. Some suggested resource books are:

- *Final Gifts--Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying*, by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley, ISBN 0-553-56139-1. Contains many case studies and is easy reading.
- *On Death and Dying*, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, ISBN 0-02-089141-5. The standard book dealing with the five stages of grief.
- *Talking about Death--A Dialogue between Parent and Child*, by Earl A. Grollman, ISBN 0-8070-2363-9.

Option 9: Video Clip

Use PBS's film "In the Mix" show called *Dealing With Death* with a four sectioned discussion guide found at <http://www.pbs.org/inthemix/educators/deathguide.html>.

For information about In the Mix, including show descriptions and schedules, visit our home on the World Wide Web at www.IntheMix.org. *Dealing With Death* carries one-year off-air taping rights and performance rights. Check your local PBS listings for airtimes.

Summary/Evaluation

In the past, people were born and died at home with their families nearby. Most people died in their own beds. Death was considered a natural part of the life cycle. Today most deaths occur in hospitals; the dying are often surrounded by medical personnel instead of family members. Death has become a remote subject that many people avoid discussing. Coping with crisis may be a necessary skill that will be required of all people at various times in their lives.

Videotape copies of the program can be purchased for \$69.95 (includes performance rights and a Discussion Guide) plus \$5.00 shipping and handling per order, and can be ordered by sending a check or purchase order to: Castle Works Inc., 114 E. 32 Street, Suite 903, New York, NY 10016. There is a discount of \$5.00 per tape on orders of any five or more In the Mix titles.

Authors

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