



Bobby's Books

Book: Everett Anderson's Goodbye

Possible Themes: Death of a Father; Five Stages of Grief; Artistic Responses to Grief

Publisher, Publishing Date and ISBN Number: Henry Holt and Company, 1988, 0-8050-0800-4

Author: Lucille Clifton

Illustrator: Ann Grifalconi

Recommended Age of Child: 4-12, possibly teens

Description of Book: The young boy, Everett Anderson has a hard time coming to terms with his grief following the death of his father.

Quote from Book: Everett Anderson says, "I knew my daddy loved me through and through and whatever happens when people die, love doesn't stop, and neither will I."

Lesson Plan Ideas:

- Discuss the five steps that appear on the first page of the story.
- Give five cards or pieces of paper to each child with the following labels: 1) Denial; 2) Anger; 3) Bargaining; 4) Depression; 5) Acceptance.
- Use cards for children to list or draw how they have felt or what they will feel like in these stages.
- Discuss whether or not these stages always appear and in that order. Have children mix up the cards in any order they think they should be in.
- Role play the different stages and what might be seen at that stage.
- Work on a group mural using a roll of white paper and charcoal pencils. Look for other examples, art books, illustrations that use only charcoal and paper to convey a feeling of aloneness, sadness, etc.
- Turn to the "I don't love page" and talk about what each child doesn't "love" or "like" and why. Like Everett, are they hating candy? or is that something they would eat "right now." Have a box that they haven't opened until now, and everyone gets to choose their favorite piece of candy!

Materials Needed: Roll of Large White Paper, Charcoal or actually any kind of pencil and sharpener; 5 labeled 5X7 cards for each child; drawing supplies; box of candy