



Bobby's Books

Book: The Tenth Good Thing About Barney

Possible Themes: Death of a Pet, Sadness, Use Memories as a Tool

Publisher, Publishing Date and ISBN Number: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1987 and 0-689-71203-0

Author: Judith Viorst

Illustrator: Eric Blegvad

Recommended Age of Child: 4-10

Description of Book: "In an attempt to overcome his grief, a young boy tries to think of the ten best things about his cat Barney, who has just died."

Quote from Book: "My cat Barney died last Friday. I was very sad,"

Lesson Plan Ideas:

- Pass around a toy cat. Share your story. Each time the toy comes to the child, he or she should tell a little about the pet. Who are you missing? (ex: My turtle, Squirts) How did you know that it was dead? (Reinforce the simple explanation that his or her body stopped. How did you feel? What helped you or still helps you feel better? How do you feel now when you think about your pet? This will be an invitation to some children to talk about other losses they have had and deaths they have experienced. Honor this request. If necessary, stay after the session to talk with parents and children.
- Give the children inexpensive 8 x10 frames. Draw outlines on drawing paper so children know how big their drawing can be. They can draw a picture of their pet, a favorite person, or something that gives them comfort. This project may take more than one session to complete. Their framed artwork can be taken home and displayed.

Materials: Stuffed Cat, Paper, Drawing Materials, Frames