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BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



My daddy is my superhero (2018)

Broadbent M.

Newcastle-under-Lyme: North Staffordshire Press,
2018.

34pp.

ISBN 9781999870348.

£8.99.

Average star rating 4.5 (out of 5)

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I love everything about this book! The story is beautifully written and illustrated, especially the aeroplane at the end of the book – “Love Daddy”. It perfectly depicts the special and precious times between a father and his young son who are trying to come to terms with and cope with loss and impending death.

It is suitable for young children and could be read at any stage. It is written to help prepare a child to make memories, with lots of reassurance and allowing for adjustment at the pace of the child.

This positive book allows for fun, normality, hands-on play and, at the same time, making special memories. It encompasses many of the changes, e.g. acknowledging that no one is to blame. It allows for adjustment in a very honest and open way with lots of love demonstrated throughout – perfectly written to help to prepare a child with beautiful memories and hopefully, acceptance.

Retired Macmillan Nurse (56-65) (April 2019)

This is a super book for young children whose parent has died or is about to. The story is told through the eyes of a young boy who loves his dad and tells of the wonderful things he does with his dad before he gets ill, then of his illness and eventual death. It will be useful to read at any time.

It is easy to understand and suitable for young children. It is told in clever, rhyming text that flows well. The illustrations are very bright and descriptive. I really like how the story is told; the boy and his dad are great. It is a very touching and uplifting book for young children who are going through a similar thing.

This book will promote discussion and help a child cope with grief. I recommend it to all children of any culture. A brilliant book all round.

Breast cancer survivor with seven grandchildren (46-55) (September 2018)



This book is suitable for a child who will have to cope with losing a parent or other loved one. It could be very useful in promoting conversations that will help a child deal with grief and is best read before bereavement.

The only characters are the boy and his father. The story starts by explaining how much the child loves and admires his father. It goes on to say that, "Soon my Dad might have to go to a different kind of space". After that (it is never explicitly stated that the father dies), the book deals with remembering and treasuring special times and the boy knowing that his father is still near and will always be in his heart.

It is suitable for young children, or any child who likes simple story books with lots of pictures. It is very easy to understand. There are no technical/medical words and the word cancer is never used – the nature of the father's illness is never mentioned. It has the feel of an ordinary story book unlike some books about cancer for children. I like the bright illustrations; they help to convey the close relationship between father and son. As with the text, the pictures can be used to promote conversations. At times the rhyming text really works, but at others the text is compromised by the need to find a line that rhymes and I was reminded of a cheesy greetings card poem.

The author states that this book is intended to act as a starting point for conversations with children about serious illness and loss. I feel it serves this purpose successfully. It can be read with children who are likely to suffer a bereavement and used by teachers as part of the general PHSE curriculum or to support a class of young children including a pupil who is dealing with grief.

Retired Infant Headteacher with experience of young pupils affected by cancer (56-65) (October 2019)

This is one of those books that could be read to anyone at any time. It would be good to read to those whose parent/loved one has cancer, during the illness or after death. Equally, it is good to read to those who are not affected by cancer as a precursor to it happening at some point in their lives.

It is very easy to understand for young children. The glossy pages give a sense of importance to the story. The illustrations are not to my taste, but they are bright and bold and provide lots to talk about.

I like the message that this book carries and the way that it is told; that a person can be remembered for all the good things after they have died. I don't like the rhyming text – it's twee – but there are some lovely messages and lovely lines, e.g.: "I'll always have our precious time, Moments of happiness together"; and "Inside he's my same Daddy, I can see it in his eyes".

This is a book that can be read to any young child if they are experiencing the imminent death or lengthy illness of a loved one, or not. It could be read at school, in hospital or at home. It is warm and inviting with illustrations that are bold, slightly cartoon-like and provide things to talk about. It is good that it looks like any other picture book and could be read as such. However, the message is a strong one about preparing for death and how to remember afterwards. It is very positive. A book that would be good to own and to read again and again and again.

Living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) and former teacher of 3-16-year-olds with SEN (46-55) (July 2018)

Further information

Why does Macmillan Cancer Support review books?

We use reviews to help us compile a list of suggested cancer books, the [Macmillan Core Book List](#). Cancer information centres and public libraries can use this list to select appropriate and relevant books for people affected by cancer.

We add reviews to the [Directory of information materials for people affected by cancer](#) so that people affected by cancer can see what others in a similar situation think about a book. You can also see details of all the books reviewed in the [Book reviews listing](#), which also has links to all the reviews.

We recruit most of our reviewers through the [Volunteering Village](#) and the [Cancer Voices Network](#), people affected by cancer who have signed up to help Macmillan Cancer Support in a number of ways. Volunteers are a vital part of our book review process; since 2007, over 1,500 Macmillan volunteers have written more than 6,000 reviews of over 500 different books.

If you are a health professional who would like to review books for us, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Information and support for people affected by cancer

If you are looking for support to help you live life with cancer, you may wish to contact one of [Macmillan's cancer information and support services](#). Or you can call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00** (Mon-Fri 9am–8pm). We have an interpreting service in over 200 languages. Just state, in English, the language you wish to use. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you can use textphone no 0808 808 0121 or Text Relay.

You can also email us using the [website enquiry form](#). Alternatively, [visit our website](#).

Feedback

If you have any comments, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

We're here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support. So whatever cancer throws your way, we're right there with you.

For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk

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