Kathryn Mannix’s
Five books to help us think about dying, death and grief

Granpa by John Burningham
A picture book for younger children (and all of us) remembering happy times with Granpa, now that he has died and his chair is empty. A great way to engage in family discussion about the death of a person we love.

Dear Life by Rachel Clarke
A palliative care doctor reflects on her work, on how dying can be made bearable, and the importance of talking about death realistically.

Waiting for the Last Bus by Richard Holloway
A wise and humble exploration of older age, and the approach of life’s end. How should we face our own mortality? Warm, kind and gentle.

Grief is the Thing with Feathers by Max Porter
A fictional blend of poetry and prose describing the grief of a widower and his young sons following the death of their mother. A beautiful and validating exploration of grieving, laced with wry humour, suitable for teens, young adults and grown-ups.

Grief Works by Julia Samuel
Using stories from her practice, an experienced grief therapist talks us through the pain and challenge of grief and offers tools that all of us can use to help us cope with bereavement.

Kathryn Mannix is the author of With the End in Mind, a collection of stories to show us how people live the last part of their lives, described by readers as surprisingly uplifting!

Dying Matters is a campaign run by Hospice UK

Photo credit: Craig Fordham
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