

ILLNESS OF A FAMILY MEMBER

Ackermann, A. Our Mom Has Cancer. Two sisters, ages eleven and thirteen, describe what it was like for them when their mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery and chemotherapy. j 362.1 Ackermann

Bunting, E. Sunshine Home. Timmie and his parents make their first visit to Gram at a nursing home; she's had to move there since she fell and broke her hip. Until now, Gram has lived with Timmie's family and it is hard for them all to see her there. The family hopes together that Gram will get well enough to come home while accepting that she may not. j PAR PIC Bunting

Butler, D. My Grandpa Had a Stroke. After Ryan's grandfather has a stroke, their close relationship has to change and with the help of his parents, rehabilitation professionals, and Grandpa himself, Ryan learns what a stroke is and the stroke's effect on his grandfather, now and in the future. j PAR PIC Butler

Gilmore, R. Grandpa's Clock. Cayley and her grandfather have made nineteen clocks together, but now he has had a heart attack, and Cayley must help him to heal before they can return to making clocks. j PAR PIC Gilmore

Johnston, T. Grandpa's Song. When Grandpa laughed, "everything near him shook like a train was passing through," and when he sang, "the house hopped like a cricket and the pictures jumped on the walls." When Grandpa begins to "forget things he should know"--including the secret song he has taught the children--they decide to sing "the best song in the world" at his birthday party. j PAR PIC Johnston

Keller, H. The Best Present. When eight year old Rosie is unable to visit her grandmother in the hospital because visitors must be at least ten, she sends her a special present instead. j PAR PIC Keller

Kohlenberg, Sherry. Sammy's Mommy Has Cancer. Sammy's mommy receives treatment for cancer, goes into the hospital for surgery, recovers at home, and shares her continuing love for him. j PAR PIC Kohlenberg

LeShan, E. When a Parent is Very Sick. Discusses typical feelings and incidents encountered by a child when a parent is seriously ill or hurt, as well as how it affects the entire family, and suggests ways to deal with such situations. j 155.93 LeShan

Nelson, V. Always Gramma. A loving grandchild describes what it is like when Gramma becomes increasingly confused and forgetful, to the point that she can no longer take care of herself. j Par Pic Nelson

Parkinson, C. My Mommy Has Cancer. The beauty and sensitivity of both Carolyn Parkinson's words and Elaine Verstaete's color illustrations create a gentle ambience in which children, from their own perspective, can learn about cancer.

j 616.99 Parkinson

Ries, L. Punk Wig. Mom is on her way to the hospital to get alien blobs zapped with medicine. The alien blobs are cancer. The treatment helps, but it also makes Mom lose her hair. One day she says, Today is wig day, and she and her son head down to Hariett s Hair, where they find wigs of all styles and sizes: big hair, short hair, spiky hair, and curly hair. Finally, Mom finds the wig she s been looking for and it looks perfect with her jeans and leather jacket. j PAR PIC Ries

Russell, N. Can I Still Kiss You?: Answering Your Children's Questions About Cancer. Neil Russell had to deal with one of the most difficult and important responsibilities he had ever faced as a parent: speaking to his children about his cancer. Diagnosed at age 47 when his children were only 11 and 13, this is Neil's emotional account of the disease's life-changing impact on himself and his family. j 616.994 Russell

Sherkin-Langer, F. When Mommy is Sick. When Mommy is in the hospital, as she is frequently sick, her child misses her a lot. j PAR PIC Sherkin-Langer

Silver, A. Our Dad Is Getting Better.

Our Mom Is Getting Better. The children of this nation's 10 million cancer survivors, whose lives-just like those of their parents-have been seriously disrupted and forever altered by cancer, need thoughtful and engaging books to help them through the survivorship phase.This is exactly what *Our Mom Is Getting Better* and *Our Dad Is Getting Better* do.These books focus on what children need to hear when treatment ends-a message of hope and healing. Written and illustrated by three children, veterans of their mother's cancer diagnosis, these books are geared for children 4-8 years of age.

j PAR PIC Silver

Watters, D. Where's Mom's Hair? : A Family Journey through Cancer. Told from the point of view of Watters son, this tells how his family prepared for his mother's postsurgery chemotherapy treatment. The gentle kindness conveyed in the often-humorous writing will reassure young children facing similar circumstances that it is indeed possible to cope well with a parent's cancer. j 362.196 Watters

Winthrop, E. Promises. At the opening of this moving and ultimately hopeful story, Sarah's mother is ill. During her treatment she seems to get sicker and sicker. After a long time, her mother starts feeling better. But Sarah still has one more difficult discovery to make: Her mom can't promise that she'll never get sick again. She can make other promises, though, and those special promises are enough for now.

j PAR PIC Winthrop

Compiled by the Rochester Public Library Children's Room
Updated July 2009