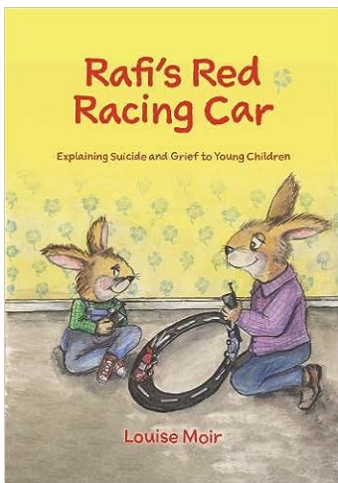




We turned to the counsellors and expressive arts therapists who work with Lumara asking if they had any recommendations for books a teacher (as well as parents and other caregivers) might find helpful to have in their classroom when it comes to supporting grieving children.

We prompted for story-time books that are either:

- **Grief-focused:** main aspect of the book is related to grief and loss OR
- **Grief-informed:** connects with topics such as emotions, self-regulation, mindfulness, resilience, inclusion, safety, mattering – all in service of being human and navigating the ups and downs of life.



Grief-Based Books for Use in Your Classroom

Integration ideas and activities for:

Rafi's Red Racing Car

(A Grief-focused book, ages 3+)

As a **grief focused book**, the intention of the book and integration activities is to assist children in:

- The intentionality of remembering, creating legacy, and continuing the bonds with the person who has died.
- Building self-regulation capacity in a way that feels comforting and safe.

It also supports adults with helpful language to talk about death and loss and to navigate the landscape of grief including supporting a child's sense-making process.

On the Lumara website you will find a video that contains a synopsis of this book, what we like about the book, who we think is best served by this book (including any cautions), as well as suggestions for how to integrate the book into your classroom. (Summarized below.) **Please note we recommend this book for one-on-one interaction with a young person directly impacted by suicide. (Not for large group reading.)**

Here's a summary of our integration activity suggestions:

- ❖ Non-directed play with racing cars (as Rafi does in the book.)
 - ❖ Young person to be with a supportive adult who addresses any questions that arise organically.

- ❖ Plant a tree or a plant in a garden (as suggested in the book.)
 - ❖ Creates an opportunity to talk about life cycles and questions the child might have around what it means to be alive and what it means to be dead.
 - ❖ E.g. Plants need sun and water. Humans need a heartbeat and breath.
 - ❖ Caution: Recommend not positioning the planting as a form of memorializing given that many saplings or young plants do not survive.

Other resources related to Grief and Loss in the Classroom can be found on the Lumara website.

Lumara is a charitable organization that helps children, youth, adults & families cope with serious illness, grief, and bereavement. Through education, support, and counselling services we bring light to grief and sorrow, nurturing healing and hope within the strength of community. We also provide educational services to organizations and institutions.

<https://lumarasociety.org/> or contact info@lumarasociety.org