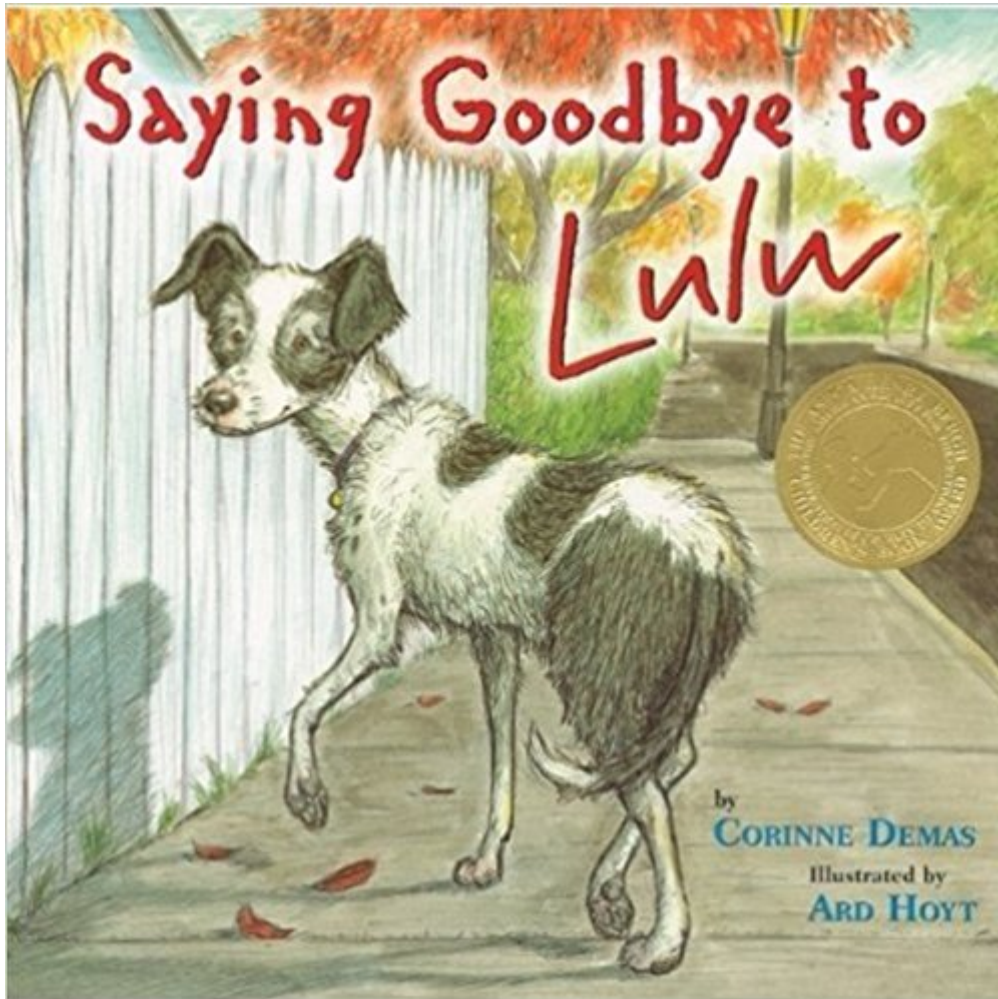




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# Saying Goodbye To Lulu



## Synopsis

A young girl and her lovable dog, Lulu, are the best of friends. They play games together, explore their neighborhood, and even cuddle up to read bedtime stories each night. Lulu is the best dog a girl could ever hope for, but when she grows older and gradually becomes weak, the little girl must face the sad possibility of losing her dear friend, and inevitably, cope with the death of her canine companion. Though she is deeply saddened by Lulu's passing and misses her very much, over time the little girl discovers that the sweet memory of her beloved Lulu will live on forever... in her heart. With realistic, hopeful illustrations by Ard Hoyt, this tender tale offers an accessible lens to young children learning to understand and cope with the mixed emotions that come with the loss of a loved one.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 520 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (September 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031604749X

ISBN-13: 978-0316047494

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 65 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #113,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #140 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #327 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets](#) #697 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2  
Lulu, a black-and-white mutt, is adored by her freckle-faced owner, a girl whose parents gently guide her through the various stages of caring for an aging and then very sick dog. When the inevitable happens, memories of the past and hope for the future bring a bittersweet conclusion to this straightforward and affecting story. The emotions of the nameless narrator are clearly and simply shown. She describes how, when Lulu became blind and deaf, she "fed her from my hand and held her water bowl so she could drink." The pictures, too, excel

in tenderness without sentimentality. The realistic-looking cartoons, done with watercolor, colored pencil, and pen and ink, strongly convey the personalities of both girl and dog as they share good times and difficult moments. While this book does not break any new ground, it is accessible and appealing, and the death of a pet is a perennial childhood issue. Two similar titles, DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan's *A Dog Like Jack* (Holiday, 1999) and Marjorie Blain Parker's *Jasper's Day* (Kids Can, 2002), feature boys as main characters, so a book about a girl facing the same situation is welcome. --Lauralyn Persson, Wilmette Public Library, IL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** PreS-Gr. 2. A girl cares tenderly for her old dog, Lulu, whose vision, hearing, and general health are declining. Though she wishes that they could play together as they used to, she knows that her dog will not get well. Lulu dies and is buried in the backyard, but it takes some months before the girl can say good-bye. As the story ends, she meets her new puppy and finds that her heart has room for Lulu and her new dog too. This first-person narrative relates events and expresses the girl's feelings in a matter-of-fact yet affecting way. When Lulu dies, the narrator is torn between longing and fear: "I wanted to say good-bye, but I was afraid too." Among the book's many strengths is the way Demas uses sensory details to bring the story to life: the child doesn't just miss Lulu--she misses the thump of her tail and the softness of her fur. Hoyt's expressive illustrations, ink-and-colored-pencil drawings washed with watercolors, reflect the tone of the text and show the child's sadness without sentimentality. In one particularly effective spread, the girl sits alone on her school bus, isolated in her stillness from the other children. A sensitive, hopeful portrayal. Carolyn Phelan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bought this for my daughters (and myself) when we lost our 13 year old dog. We were prepared, had a long time getting used to the idea of death and talked openly about it with them before and after. They were also present when he passed but I realized that while it was clear they understood the concept of death, they needed something more as an outlet for their feelings. I chose this book because of reviews and it was incredible. In all honesty, read it first once through before reading it to your kids if the wound is still fresh because it took two or three tries to get through it without crying. Its very real, direct and easy for kids to understand the emotions of loss. What happens to Lulu when she goes isn't discussed--which I prefer--but the focus is the emotional journey of the little girl.

A thoughtful presentation of a very difficult life situation. My 6 year old daughter read it to my 4 year old daughter in the days leading up to our dog's passing. It brought up some very pertinent questions and led to excellent discussions. Helpful when dealing with such a painful loss.

This book came just in time thanks to Prime. I was able to read this to my 3 year old the night before we had to put down our 13 year old chocolate lab. While we weren't sure how much our 3 year old would understand, this book was very helpful to explain this very tough loss. There is a quote from the book that has become a favorite of mine because it is so true and anyone can relate. "I tried to say goodbye but all I could do was cry" (Corinne Demas). Following the reading of this book my 3 year old gave her doggy a big kiss and hug and told him she loved him. While death is a part of life, I would recommend this book to anyone with children who are experiencing the loss of a pet of any kind not just a dog.

Bought this after we had to put our dog Smeller down :(It was mostly decent but I don't really like how the moral is kind of like "Well, your dog died but we'll get a new one so don't worry."Did a good job of making me feel sad, though.

As our dog gets older and we realize she may not be with us much longer, we wanted to introduce the idea of a dog passing from old age to our 2.5 year old son. I like this book because it's tender but honest. It talks about the different ways you can tell a dog is aging (can't get upstairs, can't see or hear) and very frankly says "mommy told me Lulu was dead." It doesn't offer a silver lining or a dog going to heaven, just talks about the feelings associated with the loss. It does have a gap between the part where it talks about getting a new dog, so we just stop there since we don't plan on a new dog right away. My son doesn't even realize the additional pages are there.

A sweet story that provides hope for kids dealing with the loss of their pet, as well as introduction of a new pet and remembrance of the past pet. I actually teared up towards the end. I look forward to sharing this with my children as they age and time takes its toll on us and our beloved pets.

This book was very useful for is in helping our three year old understand that our elderly dog was going to pass on. When it actually happened, she had a script in her head and knew what to expect. I did edit how I read the part about the girl petting her dog after she died to say goodbye because I

thought my daughter was too young to actually do that.

One of the best books ever for discussing the death of a loved one with a young child.

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