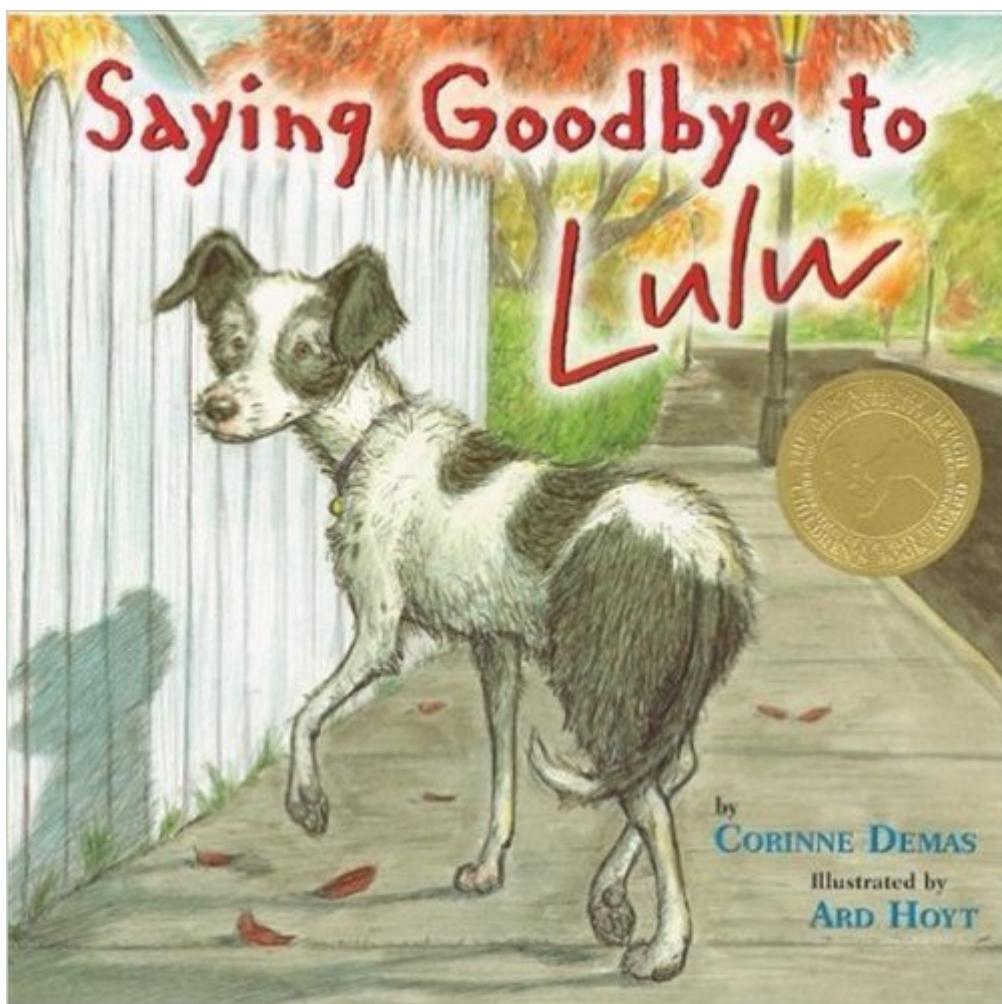


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# Saying Goodbye To Lulu



## **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: 660 (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: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (57 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #44,916 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #173 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #365 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

This is a very moving book that tells the story of a young girl and her aging dog. As she reminiscences about her dog and how he used to be, an adult will get the sense of impending doom but children may not see the dog's death coming. The book is quite positive at the outset, describing how the dog is aging but used to enjoy games, running, jumping, etc. The death comes rather fast and yes, in a blunt way, but it's touching and makes me cry every time I start reading it. It's a wonderful book for children who have an older pet and those who have recently lost one; it tells the

story of love between humans and animals, the joys they bring us, and the happiness that can be found with a new pet and new bond as well. It's realistic and you can't shield children from life. This book deals with a sad subject in an open manner and makes you feel something too. I'd highly recommend it because, in addition to poignant writing the illustrations are beautiful.

This box of Kleenex book is about a young girl preparing to say goodbye to her beautiful dog LuLu. She, like the young boy in I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU describes how she and the dog grew up together and have been lifelong friends. She recounts how she and her beautiful dog played together, yet lately her dog no longer can see or hear or move around comfortably. LuLu becomes lethargic and spends a lot of her time sleeping. LuLu eventually dies and the girl's mother tells her the sad news. The girl goes through the usual and expected grieving states of sadness and anger. Her father tells her that she can pick out another dog, but the girl insists that LuLu in her healthier days is the only dog she wants. Like the boy in I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, the family buries LuLu in their back yard. To honor the dog's memory, they plant a cherry tree over her grave. It is then when that tree is in blossom that the girl can finally say goodbye and fully accept the death of her beloved dog. She even gets a new puppy. This is a very moving and wonderful book that might even make you cry. It was especially poignant for me because as a child I had a terrier mix who looked a lot like LuLu and I was quite sad when she became old and infirm and died. She was a wonderful dog. This is a book that will help ALL ages move through and recognize the grieving process. Excellent books like this and I'll Always Love You, Old Dog and the Christmas Wish, Jasper's Day and The Rainbow Bridge: Pet Loss Is Heaven's Gain help children AND adults realize that not only is it okay to be sad, but it is understandable and even accepted. Anger is often part of the grieving process, especially when a beloved pet dies. This astute author reminds all readers and listeners that these feelings will eventually pass and in time the child and others who loved the pet can think fondly on the animal with love and happiness. I give this book the highest possible endorsement. People of ANY age who have ever lost a pet or who have a pet near death will find comfort in this book. To Corinne Demas, I say a heartfelt (with tears in my eyes) THANK YOU!

I ordered this book based on the previous reviews about 2 weeks before my forever-loved best furry friend passed. I could see his health declining and I could also see how it was affecting the kids (ages 2 1/2 and 4 1/2 at the time). I didn't know how stable I was going to be to be able to answer their questions in a way that they could understand when he did eventually pass. This book helped a lot with that. I couldn't get through it the first time reading it to them without tears, but that was ok.

It allowed them to see that I was sad, too. Almost a year later, my kids still ask to read this book and continue to ask more questions about Lance and about death. We got a few other books too, but this one was the best understood by them and it also happened to be the closest story to what we were experiencing. I do still have a hard time reading it out loud, but I can at least get through it now without crying. You should definitely buy it if you have young children.

First of all, if you're looking at reviews to decide whether or not to order this book, I'm so sorry. The time had come for us to say goodbye to our 15-year old pup, Sunny. We wanted to explain it to our 4-year old and 6-year old so they could say their goodbyes, and this book does an amazing job. It focuses on an aging dog that slowly can't do the things it used to, which is where we were with Sunny. I read it a few times before reading it to the kids so I could change a few words to make it apply to our situation. Also, at the end, there are two blank pages and then it discusses the family getting a new puppy. We have another dog and don't plan on adopting another puppy right away, so by reading ahead of time, I knew about this and ended the book before getting to those pages. Trying to explain all of this to a child when I was heartbroken myself was one of the toughest things, but having this book as my "crutch" to properly explain what was going on when I didn't have the words, was a lifesaver.

I came across this book at our local library. I honestly just picked it off the shelf because "Lulu" looks a lot like our dog, and thought it would be a cute story about maybe losing a pet and finding it again. From the moment I began to read it, I realized what the story was really going to be about... And yes my 5 yr. old and I cried, and my 8 yr. old put on a brave face, but was very moved by the story. This brought up many questions concerning our own dogs life and when his possible death would be. It also has made my 5 yr. old more loving and gentle with our dog. It's a beautiful but very honest story. One that I imagine plays out in many households everyday.

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