

A LIST OF BOOKS ON CHILDHOOD CANCER FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Allen, Leahanne. (2009). Riley Socks. Llumina Kids.

This book is a triumphant children's story of survival. It is an uplifting, easy-to-read children's rhyming book that tells the true story of seven-year-old Riley Allen's victorious battle with cancer. Spirited and spunky Riley Socks kicks cancer right between the eyes. Nothing is going to stop her from doing all the things she wants ... not even cancer. Upon waking up from a lengthy surgery on her leg, Riley finds she has a special sock. To her delight, this sock aids in her recovery and gets her back on her feet.

Ashley, Leona Booms. (2009). I am a Vivor. Halo Publishing International.

Here is an inspirational story of a young girl who has survived cancer. The superb photography and kid friendly language depict her doing everything other kids can do, with one arm. She is an amazing little girl with a positive attitude and a strong family behind her.. This story is wonderful for helping children and families better understand surviving cancer and living with a limb difference.

Beall-Sullivan, Christina. (2000). Hi, My Name is Jack: A Book for the Healthy Siblings of Chronically Ill Children. Bopar Books.

This is a children's book for the healthy siblings of chronically ill, disabled or dying children. This book addresses the feelings of the healthy siblings without focusing on the ill child. This book is unique in that it is not illness specific. It is used for a variety of illnesses and medical situations. Hi, My Name is Jack is a wonderful resource and tool to facilitate communication in families with a chronically ill, disabled or dying child.

Coerr, Eleanor. (1999). Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. Puffin Books.

Based on the true story of a young Japanese girl who contracts leukemia as a result of the atom bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, the story follows Sadako as a healthy schoolgirl winning relay races, through her diagnosis with the atom bomb sickness, to her long stay in the hospital. It is in the hospital that she first begins making origami cranes to pass the time. Her ultimate goal is to make 1000, but she dies with only 644 completed. Sadako's classmates finish making the remaining cranes, and all 1000 are buried with her.

Cranston, Lynda and Barr, Ronald. (2001). You and Your Cancer: A Child's Guide. Pmph usa.

You and Your Cancer is designed to inform children with cancer of the nature of their illness. The text follows the diagnosis and treatment of various cancers of three fictional children. It centers on the physical and emotional effects cancer can cause them, as well as the range of medical issues that they will encounter. Topics range from treatment methods to the challenges of dealing with the possibility of dying, whether it be their own or someone close to them. It also outlines the key people who will be helping them deal with their cancer, whether through medical or emotional support.

Dodd, Michael. (2004). Oliver's Story: For Sibs of Kids with Cancer. Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation. (also available in Spanish).

Oliver's Story is a 40 page illustrated book targeted for the 3 to 8 year old sibling of children diagnosed with cancer. Illustrated by Mike Dodd and written through the eyes of his six-year-old son Oliver, this resource focuses on the many questions that siblings have when their brother or sister is diagnosed with cancer, and offers constructive ways on how they can provide support. Available from Candlelighters at www.candlelighters.org.

Gaes, Jason. (1998). My Book for Kids With Cansur [sic]. Viking Penguin.

Young Jason copes with Burkitt's lymphoma by recording his thoughts for other similarly afflicted children. His aim is to say kids don't always die. He relates how his cancer was discovered, describes operations, radiation and chemotherapy, and advises what to do in the hospital. Candid and authentic, Jason is also wise, telling readers that kids who laugh at baldness are not very good friends anyway and suggesting ways parents can help.

Gaynor, Kate. (2008). The Famous Hat. Special Stories Publishing.

This book has been designed to help children with leukemia (or other forms of cancer) to prepare for treatment, namely chemotherapy, and a stay in hospital. Treatment for childhood cancer can be very difficult to cope with, especially for very young children. The lengthy stay in hospital, having to contend with drips, tubes and injections is difficult enough without the possibility of hair loss for children to face. However, this book helps children to see the experience of a child that they can easily relate to. Harry not only enjoys his stay in hospital and makes new friends, but he also overcomes any fears of losing his hair.

Keene, Nancy. (2002). Chemo, Crazyness and Comfort: My Book About Childhood Cancer. Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation.

A 200 page resource that provides practical advice for children diagnosed with cancer between the ages of 6 and 12. Warm and humorous illustrations and easy-to-read text help children and parents make sense of cancer and its treatment. Available from Candlelighters at www.candlelighters.org.

Klett, Amy. (2002). The Amazing Hannah, Look at Everything I Can Do! Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation. (Also available in Spanish)

This 28 page picture book is written for the preschool (1 to 5 years) child who has been diagnosed with cancer. Through real-life photos, children will be able to identify with Hannah's hospital stay, special friends, tests, treatment and germ care. Available from Candlelighters at www.candlelighters.org.

Krisher, Trudy. (1992). Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope. Albert Whitman and Company.

Kathy describes the hats she has worn since she was a baby--winter hat, sunbonnet, Easter finery--until the year she gets cancer and chemotherapy leaves her with a new need for hats that makes her dislike them for the first time. A realistic, straightforward and upbeat picture of a child coping with cancer and surviving it.

Lilley, Kathryn Ulberg. (2002). Stevie's New Blood. Oncology Nursing Society.

With charming cartoon characters, colorful illustrations, and a story that describes bone marrow transplantation (BMT) from a child's point of view, *Stevie's New Blood* tells the story of Stevie, who is undergoing BMT in the hopes it will cure his leukemia. It helps children know what to expect--before, during, and after transplantation--through colorful pictures and simple text. Available through the Oncology Nursing Society website at: <http://esource.ons.org/ProductDetails.aspx?sku=INPUSTEVENEWBLD>

Luttrell, Adele. (2006). Why Me? Sand and Sea Publishing Company.

Adele Marie Luttrell shares a moving reflection on her son Joey's experience with childhood cancer. Seen through his eyes, it offers insight and wisdom about the questions we all ask in facing such difficult times. Why is this happening...why do I have to go through this....is God punishing me? In a beautifully illustrated dream, Joey discovers a number of important gifts that are already within him, which will help him through his illness. His story offers encouragement and hope to those who face challenges from someone who has lived through it.

Martin, Kim. (2005). H is for Hair Fairy: An Alphabet of Encouragement and Insight for Kids (and Kids at Heart!) with Cancer. Trafford Publishing.

An alphabet book with a mission, this 32-page picture book will inspire, comfort, educate and encourage children being treated for cancer. Using colorful, warm, humorous illustrations and verse, the author employs the alphabet to feature different aspects of coping with cancer treatment. Many pages include practical information about where to find help or relief for children at this challenging time in their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Hair Fairy, creations of the author, are a humorous pair who visit cancer patients on the

day they lose their hair and leave them a gift. They also watch over cancer patients and guide us through this heartwarming book of encouragement.

Mills, Joyce C. (2003). Little Tree: A Story for Children with Serious Medical Illness. Magination Press.

When Little Tree's branches are hurt during a terrible storm, Amanda the squirrel calls upon the Tree Wizards of the forest to help. In order to save her life the wizards have to remove some of Little Tree's branches. With Amanda's help, Little Tree comes to terms with her new, changed self.

Peterkin, Allan. (1992). What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick. Magination Press.

Laura experiences conflicting emotions when her brother becomes seriously ill. Includes suggestions for parents to help their well children cope with a chronically ill sibling.

Richmond, Christina. (1996) Chemo Girl: Saving the World One Treatment at a Time. Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Chemo Girl is the fictional tale of a superhero created by Christina Richmond, who was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare type of muscle cancer, when she was in the seventh grade. She was only 12 years old. During her many hospitalizations, she developed the concept of Chemo Girl to help her cope with the chemotherapy treatments. She wrote *Chemo Girl*, not only to help herself, but to help other children in similar situations. She saw *Chemo Girl* as an educational tool for children and adults, both healthy and ill. The idea was to teach a positive, non-threatening side of chemotherapy and to realize there's always hope.

Schultz, Charles M. (2002). Why, Charlie Brown, Why? A Story About What Happens When a Friend Is Very Ill. Ballantine Publishing Group.

In this timeless classic, the *Peanuts* gang faces the serious sickness of a good friend with all the sensitivity, caring, and warmth that is the trademark of Charles Schultz's work. *Why, Charlie Brown, Why?* is a heartwarming story of a child dealing with great challenges and profound questions. When young Janice is diagnosed with leukemia, Charlie Brown looks for answers, Linus becomes her protector, Lucy doesn't understand, Snoopy dons his "World's Greatest Surgeon" togs, and the whole gang does some soul searching. In his own inimitable style, Charles Schulz brings this touching tale to life. With charm and compassion, he tells of the effect of Janice's illness on her family, her classmates, and, of course, her friends.

Stewart, Gail. (2006). Alexandra Scott: Champion for Cancer Research. KidHaven Press.

This book in the Young Heroes series chronicles how "Alex" spearheaded collecting one million dollars for childhood cancer research during her four years of holding lemonade stands and inspiring children across the country to join her in the effort.

Thomas, Cristine. (2007). Can I Catch Cancer? Brittany's Books.

Can I Catch Cancer is a clever and needed book about a question all too often asked when trying to explain cancer to any child. This book is focused on making learning fun, even on a serious topic such as cancer. The characters capture the imagination of the child enabling them to visualize what cancer is. This book is not filled with large words and huge definitions that make a child lost; it is to the point and covers the basics

Wallace, Bob. (2005). Flying With Scissors: A Different Perspective on Childhood Cancer. Virtualbookworm.com Publishing.

Flying with Scissors takes a totally unique look at childhood cancer and the kids who have moved beyond the illness. The book takes the personal experiences and insights of children who have battled cancer and turns them into universal truths that relate to each of us. It provides a non-traditional look at a typically solemn topic. *Flying with Scissors* is a resource and companion for anyone close to a child going through the cancer experience and provides guidance for all of us, valuable insights for living life-every, every day.