



Baby and Child Funeral Poems and Readings

Poetry

1. 'Warm Summer Sun' by Mark Twain

Warm summer sun,
Shine kindly here,
Warm southern wind,
Blow softly here.
Green sod above,
Lie light, lie light.
Good night, dear heart,
Good night, good night.

2. 'On The Wings Of A Butterfly' by Christine McClimans

Your love is special,
Like the flowers that bloom
Or when a butterfly emerges
From within its cocoon....

You remind me of that butterfly
Loving and free
Bright and colourful
For the world to see....

We will share the sunshine and rainbows
Sometimes, the rain and the snow,
We'll stand together through it,
While the cold winds blow....

When the time is right
We won't stop to ask 'why'
Our love will take flight
On the wings of a butterfly

3. 'Little Snowdrop' by Anon

The world may never notice if a snowdrop doesn't bloom,
Or even pause to wonder if the petals fall too soon,
But every life that ever forms or even comes to be,
Touches the world in some small way for all eternity.
The little one we longed for was swiftly here and gone,
But the love that was then planted is a light that still shines on,
And though our arms are empty our hearts know what to do,
Every beating of our hearts says that we love you.

4. 'Butterfly' by Anon

A butterfly lights beside us, like a sunbeam...
and for a brief moment its glory
and beauty belong to our world...
but then it flies on again, and although
we wish it could have stayed,
we are so thankful to have seen it at all.

5. 'Too Soon' by Mary Yarnall

This was a life that had hardly begun
No time to find your place in the sun
No time to do all you could have done
But we loved you enough for a lifetime
No time to enjoy the world and its wealth
No time to take life down off the shelf
No time to sing the songs of yourself
Though you had enough love for a lifetime
Those who live long endure sadness and tears
But you'll never suffer the sorrowing years
No betrayal, no anger, no hatred, no fears
Just love - Only love - In your lifetime.

6. 'Four Candles For Our Baby' by Anon

The first candle represents our memories.
We will never forget the love and happiness you brought.
The second candle we light is our grief.
The pain of our loss is intense.
It reminds us of how hard it is to let you go.

The third candle is for the courage we need
To confront our sorrow, to heal around it
And to comfort each other.
What we have been through will make us stronger.
The fourth candle we light for our hope.
Through us your light will continue to shine,
And will guide us towards a happier future.
We will never forget you.

7. 'P'u - Hua Fei Hua' by Po Chu - I

A flower and not a flower; of mist and yet not of mist;
At midnight she was there; she went as daylight shone.
She came and for a little while was like a dream of spring,
And then, as morning clouds that vanish traceless,
she was gone.

8. 'These Are My Footprints' by Anon

These are my footprints, so perfect and so small.
These tiny footprints never touched the ground at all.
Not one tiny footprint, for now I have my wings.
These tiny footprints were meant for other things.
You will hear my tiny footprints, in the patter of the rain.
Gentle drops like angels tears, of joy and not from pain.
You will see my tiny footprints, in each butterflies' lazy dance.
I'll let you know I'm with you, if you give me just a chance.
You will see my tiny footprints, in the rustle of the leaves.
I will whisper names into the wind, and call each one that grieves.
Most of all, these tiny footprints, are found in mummy's heart,
'Cause even though I'm gone now, we'll never truly part.

9. 'A Love Song' by Nancy Williams

The mention of my child's name may bring tears to my eyes,
but it never fails to bring music to my ears.
If you are really my friend,
let me hear the beautiful music of his name.
It soothes my broken heart and sings to my soul.

10. From 'On The Beach At Night' by Walt Whitman

Weep not, child,
Weep not, my darling,
With these kisses let me remove your tears,
The ravening clouds shall not long be victorious,
They shall not long possess the sky, they devour the stars only in apparition,
Jupiter shall emerge, be patient, watch again another night, the Pleiades shall emerge,
They are immortal, all those stars both silvery and golden shall shine out again,
The great stars and the little ones shall shine out again, they endure,
The vast immortal suns and the long-enduring pensive moons shall again shine.

11. 'Fingerprints' by Tom Krause

Your fingerprints are on my heart.
Fingerprints that teach me about caring.
Fingerprints that teach me about love.
Fingerprints that teach me about courage.
Fingerprints that teach me about hope.
Fingerprints that bring me closer to my loved ones.
Fingerprints that bring me closer to myself.
In the time I cared for you my whole life changed --
never to be the same again
All this from tiny fingerprints that touch my heart.
You will live in my heart forever - never to be forgotten.
I will always love you.
You are my child.

12. 'Don't Cry For Me' by Anon

Don't cry for me now I have died, for I'm still here I'm by your side,
My body's gone but my soul is here, please don't shed another tear,
I am still here I'm all around, only my body lies in the ground.
I am the snowflake that kisses your nose,
I am the frost, that nips your toes.
I am the sun, bringing you light,
I am the star, shining so bright.
I am the rain, refreshing the earth,
I am the laughter, I am the mirth.
I am the bird, up in the sky,
I am the cloud, that's drifting by.
I am the thoughts, inside your head,
While I'm still there, I can't be dead.

13. 'I Remember You' by Anon

The world may never notice
If a rosebud doesn't bloom:
Or even pause to wonder if the petals fall too soon.

But every life that ever forms,
Or ever comes to be
Touches the World in some small way
For all eternity.

The little ones we longed for
Were swiftly here and gone.
But the love that was then planted
Is a light that still shines on.

And though our arms are empty,
Our hearts know what to do
Every beating of my heart says
"I Remember You".

14. 'Love Is Not A Thing To Understand' by Sri Chinmoy

Love is not a thing to feel.
Love is not a thing to give and receive.
Love is a thing only to become
And eternally be.

15. 'Always' by Anon

We think about you always,
we talk about you still,
you have never been forgotten,
and you never will.
We hold you close within our hearts,
and there you will remain,
to walk with us throughout our lives
until we meet again.

16. 'Never' by K Fugleberg

I'll never get to see your precious face;
or whisper words to make you feel safe
I'll never get to hold you tight
when you can't sleep at night
I'll never get to sing to you a sweet lullaby,
to calm you down when you cry
I'll never get to fall asleep with you in my arms,
all bundled in a blanket to keep you warm
I'll never get to hear you laugh and giggle
or see you little toes wiggle
There are many things I will never get to do,
but the hardest is not being with you.

17. 'Only A Little While' by Yakamochi

We were together
Only a little while,
And we believed our love
Would last a thousand years.

18. Written by Lexi Behrndt

A diagnosis defines a lot of things, but it doesn't define love.
Love until your heart bursts.
Love until you've run dry.
Love for every day you are given,
and love even if they are no longer in your arms.

19. 'Memories' by Earl Grollman

Memories – tender, loving, bittersweet they can never be taken from you,
Nothing can detract from the joy and the beauty you and your loved one shared.
Your love for the person and their love for you
cannot be altered by time or circumstance.
The memories are yours to keep.
Yesterday has ended,
though you store it in the treasure house of the past.

20. From 'The Song Of Achilles' by Madeleine Miller

I would recognise you in total darkness,
were you mute and I deaf.
I would recognise you in another lifetime entirely,
in different bodies, different times.
And I would love you in all of this,
until the very last star in the sky burnt out into oblivion.

21. 'Look For Me In Rainbows' by Conn Bernard

Time for me to go now, I won't say goodbye;
Look for me in rainbows, way up in the sky.
In the morning sunrise when all the world is new,
Just look for me and love me, as you know I loved you.
Time for me to leave you, I won't say goodbye;
Look for me in rainbows, high up in the sky.
In the evening sunset, when all the world is through,
Just look for me and love me, and I'll be close to you.
It won't be forever, the day will come and then
My loving arms will hold you, when we meet again.
Time for us to part now, we won't say goodbye;
Look for me in rainbows, shining in the sky.
Every waking moment, and all your whole life through
Just look for me and love me, as you know I loved you.
Just wish me to be near you, And I'll be there with you.

22. 'Friends' by Abbie Farwell Brown

How good to lie a little while
And look up through the tree!
The Sky is like a kind big smile
Bent sweetly over me.
The Sunshine flickers through the lace
Of leaves above my head
And kisses me upon the face
Like Mama, before bed.
The Wind comes stealing o'er the grass
To whisper pretty things,
And though I cannot see it pass,
I feel its careful wings.

So many gentle Friends are near
Whom one can scarcely see
A child should never feel a fear,
Wherever she may be.

23. 'Do Not Judge' by Anon

Do not judge a biography by its length,
Nor by the number of pages in it.
Judge it by the richness of its contents
Sometimes those unfinished are among the most poignant...
Do not judge a song by its duration
Nor by the number of its notes
Judge it by the way it touches and lifts the soul
Sometimes those unfinished are among the most beautiful...
And when something has enriched your life
And when its melody lingers on in your heart
Is it unfinished?
Or is it endless?

24. 'Dad's Poem'

We never had the chance to play, to laugh, to rock, to wiggle
We long to hold you, touch you now, and listen to your giggle.
She'll always be your mother, and I'll always be your Dad,
You will always be our child – the child we never had.

But now you're gone ... but yet you're here. We sense you everywhere,
You are our sorrow and our joy. There's love in every tear.
Just know our love goes deep and strong, that we'll forget you never,
The child we had, but never had – and yet will have forever.

25. 'If I Were Here, What Would I Say?' by Lorraine Lehman-Jones

Yes it is true that I never got to see all that this world holds.
The flowers, the trees, grass – or a bright sunny day.
Not even the smiling faces of my loving family.
But in my heart I have seen all of these things, even in my short time.

It is also true that I never got to feel the many things that you take for granted ...
The heat on my face on a hot summer's day,
Finger paints and crayons I will never hold in my hands.

But I did feel the loving arms of my Mummy and Daddy cradling me gently.

I never got to hear all the sounds that make most hearts sing,
The laughter of a loved one, or the sweet song of a bird,
Songs on the radio and the words “I love you” are to me a mystery.
But the soft touch of my Mummy and Daddy’s hands shouts to me all of this and more.

I will never know the joy of running through a field of flowers,
Never will I roll down the side of a hill, too dizzy to stand.
Hide and seek, tag and catching ball I will have missed,
But in my mind I will do all of these things and more.

You all may see it as me missing out on all these things by leaving you so soon,
But where I am going I will do, see and hear everything you do and more.
I will only think of good things – for in my short existence that is all I have known.
So don’t cry for me, I will do all that you have wished for me and more.

One thing I want you to hold on to
is that I have not known how to hate, how to feel jealous,
or anguish or any of those emotions that can eat away at your soul.
My soul is set free with only one feeling –
for in my short time here with you I only knew love.
And that is what I take with me now.

26. ‘Light’ by Hugh O’Donnell

My little man, down what centuries of light did you travel to reach us here, your stay so short-lived;
In the twinkling of an eye you were moving on,
bearing our name and a splinter of the human cross we suffer;
flashed upon us like a beacon, we wait in darkness for that light to come round,
knowing at heart you shine forever for us.

27. ‘The Glory Of Life Is Love’ by Anon

The Glory of Life is not that it endures forever, but that, for a time, it includes so much that is beautiful.
It is a tree to those that grasp it, and happy are all who retain it.
Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peaceful.
We do not demand that the flower shall never die, nor that the song shall never end.
Nor would we be angry with life because one day its beauty will be dust, its music silent, and all its laughter
and tears forgotten.

28. 'Vanished' by Emily Dickinson

She died, — this was the way she died;
And when her breath was done,
Took up her simple wardrobe
And started for the sun.

29. From 'I'll Love You Forever' by Robert Munsch

A mother held her new baby and very slowly rocked him back and forth, back and forth, back and forth.
And while she held him, she sang:

I'll love you forever,
I'll like you for always,
As long as I'm living
my baby you'll be.

30. From 'The Noble Nature' by Ben Jonson

A lily of a day
is fairer in May,
although it fall and die that night-
It was the plant and flower of Light.
In small proportions we just beauties see:
and in short measures life may perfect be.

31. 'Little Hands' by Lyndsey, written after the death of her daughter in 2016

Your little hands so soft and still, I held them in my own,
Whilst wishing we had more than just a handprint coming home.
I studied every nail and line and every inch of you,
And cried for all the things your little hands would never do.
I'd never get to clean your hands, there'd be no messy play,
I'd never see your fingers point to things you'd try to say.
I'd never hear the sound they'd make whilst splashing in the bath,
Or how they'd cover up your lips whilst trying not to laugh.
I wish so much I could have taught you how to write your name,
Or watched your little hands outstretched to play a catching game.
Your little hands would never feel a scrape or gain a scar,
Nor would they play an instrument or learn to drive a car.
Your little hands, my little hands, forever left unchanging,

No exploring, falling, climbing, drawing and no ageing,
My only wish for you and I is that we had more time,
'Cause I could have spent forever with your little hands in mine.

32. 'The Loss Of Innocence' by Amelia Vandergast

From the echo of your first cry
I felt as though my heart started to exist outside of me.
Now that you're gone, you live inside every candle I light.
You're in the horizon of every sunrise and sunset
glowing like the fire you set inside of me.

I'll never stop asking why your time was cut too short,
perhaps you were too innocent for this world.
I know I'll never find an answer
it can be hard to swallow the anger
but I know you'd want me to keep on pushing
so you can live forever in the garden of my memory.

I'll water you every day
in the hope that you're still blossoming
you may be far from me
but I'll never admit I've lost you forever even though every day I can still feel you tearing away.

'For A Child Born Dead' by Elizabeth Jennings

What ceremony can we fit
You into now? If you had come
Out of a warm and noisy room
To this, there'd be an opposite
For us to know you by. We could
Imagine you in lively mood

And then look at the other side,
The mood drawn out of you, the breath
Defeated by the power of death
But we have never seen you stride
Ambitiously the world we know.
You could not come and yet you go.

But there is nothing now to mar
Your clear refusal of our world
Not in our memories can we mould

You or distort your character.
Then all our consolation is
That grief can be as pure as this.

'Against The Grain' by Donna Ashworth

A grief that goes against
the generational grain
is the toughest of all to take
because it is not the natural order of life.

There is no comfort to be found
in the having lived a life
there is no *as it should be*
no why
no reason
no salve.

There are only a million
missed moments
a billion *why them*
and a trillion
I would take their place in a heartbeat.

A grief that goes against
the generational grain
is the toughest of all to take
because it's wrong

it's just all so very wrong.

Prose and Quotations

'The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.' (*Helen Keller*)

'Wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way, in that enchanted place on the top of the forest, a little boy and his bear will always be playing.' (*A.A. Milne*)

'In one of those stars I shall be living. In one of them I shall be laughing. And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing, when you look at the sky at night. And when your sorrow is comforted (time soothes all sorrows) you will be content that you have known me. You will always be my friend...I shall not leave you.' (*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince*)

Pippin: I didn't think it would end this way.

Gandalf: End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it.

Pippin: What? Gandalf? See what?

Gandalf: White shores, and beyond, a far green country under a swift sunrise.

Pippin: Well, that isn't so bad.

Gandalf: No. No, it isn't."

(*from The Lord of The Rings, by J.R.R. Tolkien*)

"Each new life, no matter how brief, forever changes the world.' (*Anon*)

'We cannot, after all, judge a biography by its length, by the number of pages in it; we must judge by the richness of the contents.... Sometimes the 'unfinished' are among the most beautiful symphonies.' (*Viktor Emil Frankl*)