



Book: *The Gift of the Ladybug*

Publisher, Publishing Date: Blurb, 2008

Author: Carole M. Amber

Recommended Age of Child: Ages 5 and up

Description of Book:

Two horses realize that their cherished son is a ladybug and that he will live a short and sweet life. Their son Polkadot teaches them how to accept his fate and celebrate him for exactly who he is.

Quote from Book:

“At that moment, the horse’s tears turned from sad tears to happy tears. They realized that they had been given a miraculous gift.”

Lesson Plan Ideas:

Acceptance/Celebration of Self

Give the child a ladybug coloring page and have colorful crayons, markers or colored pencils available. Have the child color the pages with his/her favorite colors while you color a page as well. Point out the differences between his/her ladybug colors and your ladybug colors and how each one is beautiful in its own way.

Give the child a blank sheet of paper and have colorful crayons, markers or colored pencils available. Have the child draw his/her own ladybug while you draw a ladybug as well. Have the child tell you what they like the most about his/her ladybug. Point out the differences between his/her ladybug and your ladybug and how each one is beautiful in its own way.

Have the child draw a picture of three things that make him/her different. Then have each child write why each difference makes them special. Have the child tell you what makes his/her differences special. Point out additional beautiful things about that child’s differences.

Grief & Loss

Have the child draw a picture of the person who they lost or are losing. On a separate piece of paper have the child write down all of the things about the situation that makes them sad. Then on the original piece of paper have the child write down all of the things he/she loves about that person (in the space surrounding the drawing). Have the child tell you his/her top three favorite things about this person. Tell the child that it is ok to be sad (and that it often helps to write it down), but that it often helps to refer to this page to help them remember all of the special gifts that his person brought into his/her life.

Materials Needed: Crayons, markers or colored pencils. Ladybug coloring pages or regular sheets of white paper.