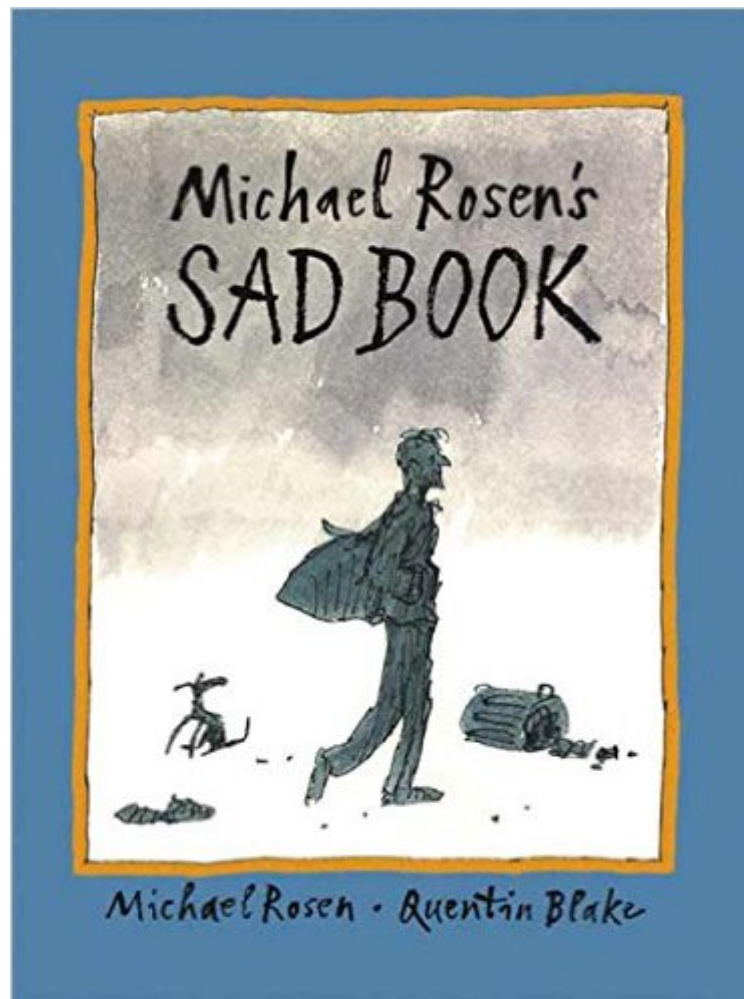


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# Michael Rosen's Sad Book (Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors (Awards))



## Synopsis

With unmitigated honesty, a touch of humor, and sensitive illustrations by Quentin Blake, Michael Rosen explores the experience of sadness in a way that resonates with us all. Sometimes I'm sad and I don't know why. It's just a cloud that comes along and covers me up. Sad things happen to everyone, and sometimes people feel sad for no reason at all. What makes Michael Rosen sad is thinking about his son, Eddie, who died suddenly at the age of eighteen. In this book the author writes about his sadness, how it affects him, and some of the things he does to cope with it—like telling himself that everyone has sad stuff (not just him) and trying every day to do something he can be proud of. Expressively illustrated by the extraordinary Quentin Blake, this is a very personal story that speaks to everyone, from children to parents to grandparents, teachers to grief counselors. Whether or not you have known what it's like to feel deeply sad, the truth of this book will surely touch you.

## Book Information

Series: Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors (Awards)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Library Binding edition (February 3, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763625973

ISBN-13: 978-0763625979

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #52,409 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #277 in [Books > Children's](#)

[Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#) #590 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

## Customer Reviews

"When I find myself in times of trouble  
Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom  
Let it be."  
--The Beatles  
Nearly ten years ago, back when I was the new Children's and YA buyer at Copperfield's, I had a business meeting with RDR Books publisher Roger Rapoport. The most

significant aspect of that meeting with Roger was his leaving me with a sample copy of the utterly delightful, Quentin Blake-illustrated, *THE BEST OF MICHAEL ROSEN* (Wetlands Press, 1995, ISBN: 1-57143-046-6). And the most significant aspect of *THE BEST OF MICHAEL ROSEN* (which is overflowing with Rosen's funny poems and tales) is a story titled, "Eddie and the Birthday." "Eddie and the Birthday (Eddie is my second son) When Eddie had his second birthday he got lots of cards, and he had a cake and all kinds of presents and we sang Happy Birthday, 'Happy Birthday to you Happy Birthday to you Happy Birthday, dear Eddie...' and all that. He liked that very much. So he goes: 'More. Sing it again.' So we sang it again. 'Happy Birthday to you Happy Birthday to you Happy Birthday, dear Eddie...' and all that. And he goes, 'More. Sing it again.' So we sang it again. 'Happy Birthday to you da de da de da, dear Eddie da de da to you...' And he goes, 'More. Sing it again.' It felt like we sang Happy Birthday about two hundred and twenty-three times. And the candles. On the cake. He loved them. 'Eddie, blow.' He blew.

Picture books that help children deal with death tend, by and large, to be about animals. There's, "Dog Heaven" and "The Tenth Good Thing About Barney", and other books along these lines. "Charlotte's Web" even comes to mind. But try coming up with a children's book that'll help kids deal with the death of another child and the well begins to run dry. Even if you do find something, it'll tend to be along the lines of books like (I kid you not), "Sad Isn't Bad (Elf-Help Books For Kids)". Credit Michael Rosen with penning a deeply personal and moving book to help children that springs from his own personal loss. Books that deal with death almost never are so well-written that they win awards. But here is one sad book that proves the exception to the rule. You open the book and there's the picture of a man grinning from ear to ear. The words say, "This is me being sad". And right off the bat kids begin to understand that being sad isn't just a face with tears or a downturned mouth. Reading on we see how occasionally Michael Rosen is consumed with sadness over the death of his son Eddie. We see pictures of Eddie growing up, with a final blank one where his life was at an end. Mostly, though, this book is about dealing with the loss of someone young. Michael talks about how he discusses his pain with friends or just thinks about it by himself, "Because it's mine. And no one else's". Sometimes Michael feels like doing crazy things because he's sad and sometimes depression will hit him in the middle of a sunny day out of the blue. From here, the book tells the reader how to deal with being sad. "I tell myself that being sad isn't the same as being horrible. I'm sad, not bad". He does things that make himself feel better and talks about how misery can hit anyone anytime.

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