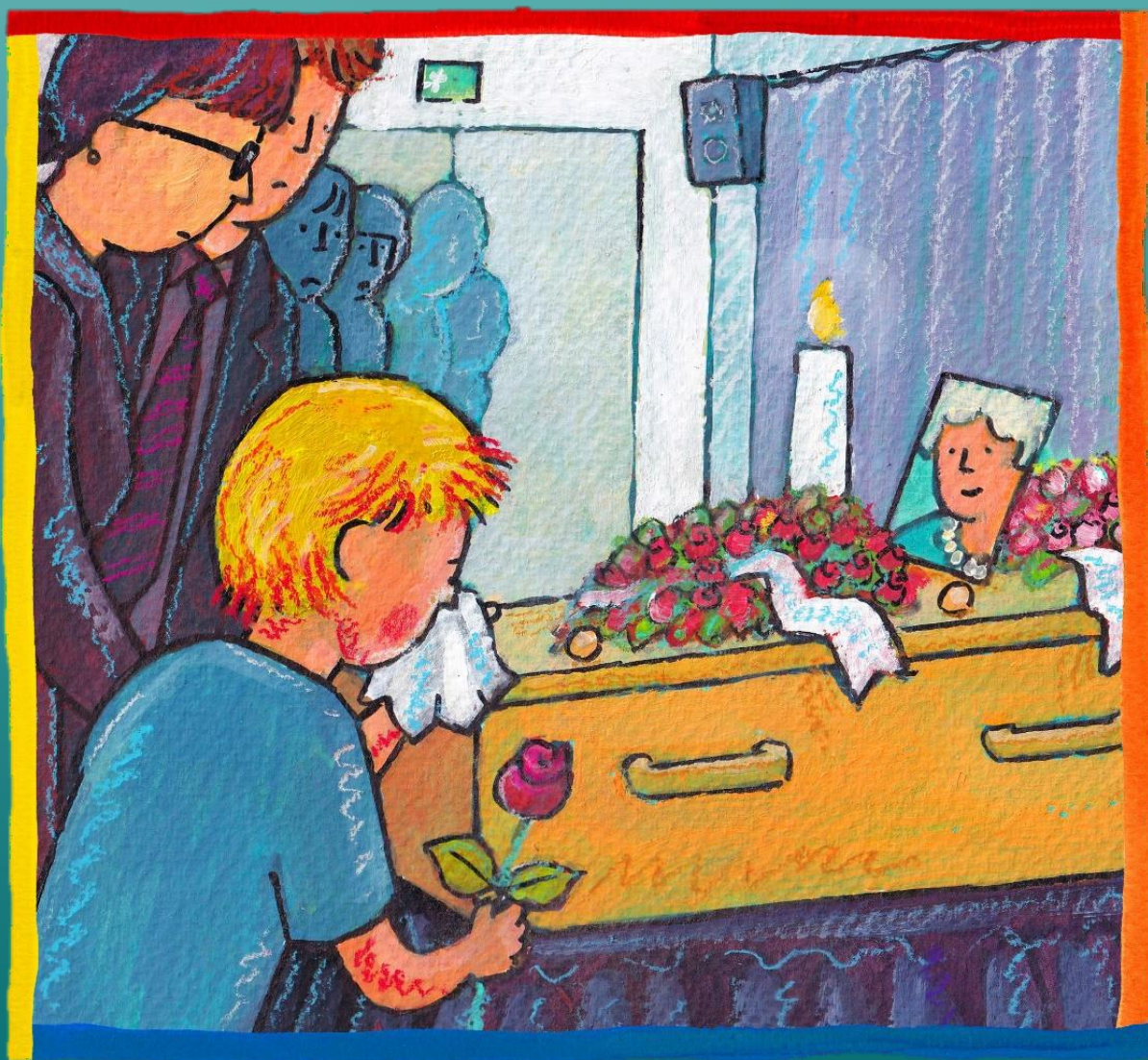




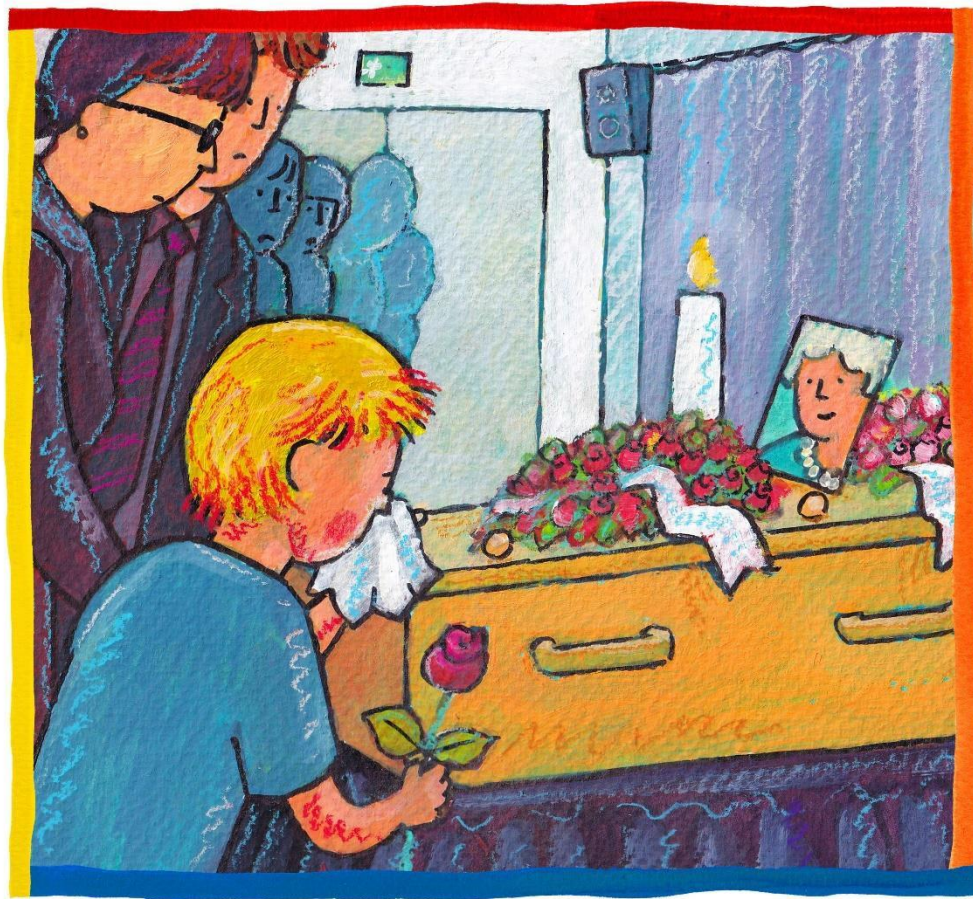
Zintuigenverhaal

Grandma has passed away



Sensory story – Grandma has passed away

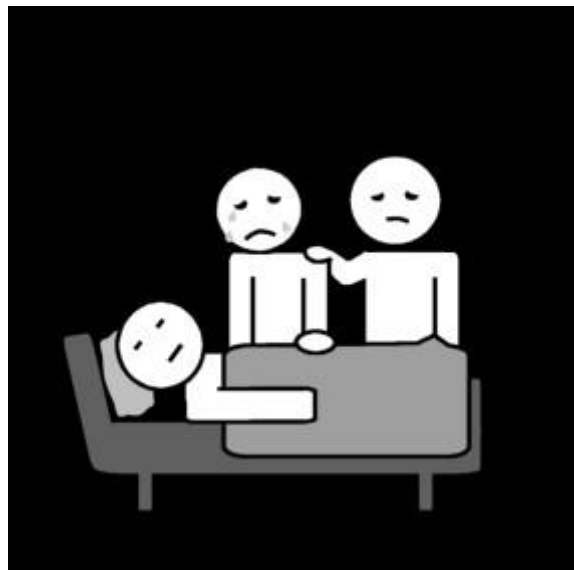
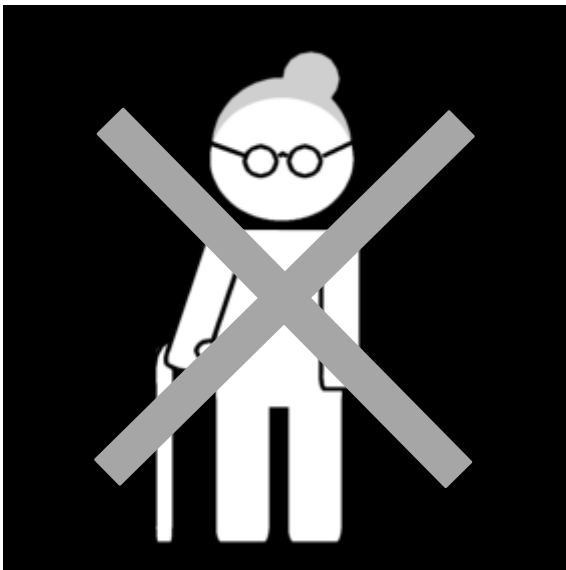
Photos and icons



1

Jip's grandma has passed away. Mom/Dad is crying.
Everyone feels sad.

(tissue, wipe away drops of water that represent tears)



2

Today Grandma will be buried/cremated.

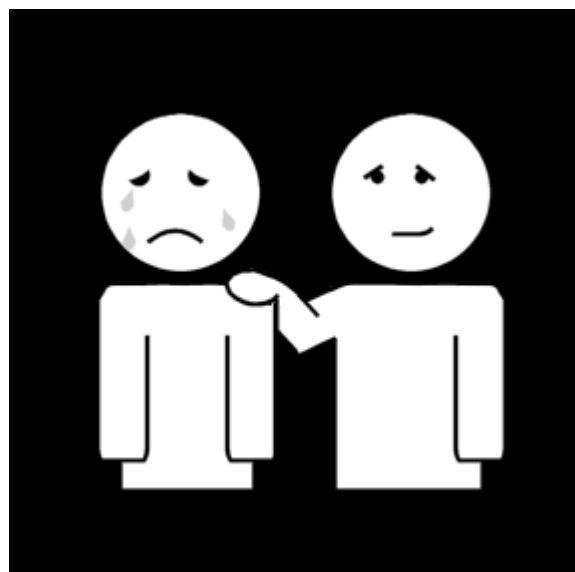
Jip and Mom put on special clothes.

(put on or feel suitable clothing, such as a black or white blouse)



3

There are so many people.
They give Jip a handshake or a hug.
(offer a handshake or a hug)

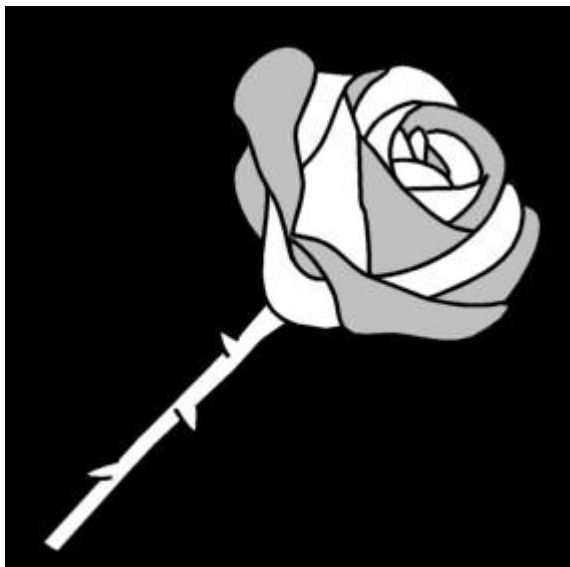
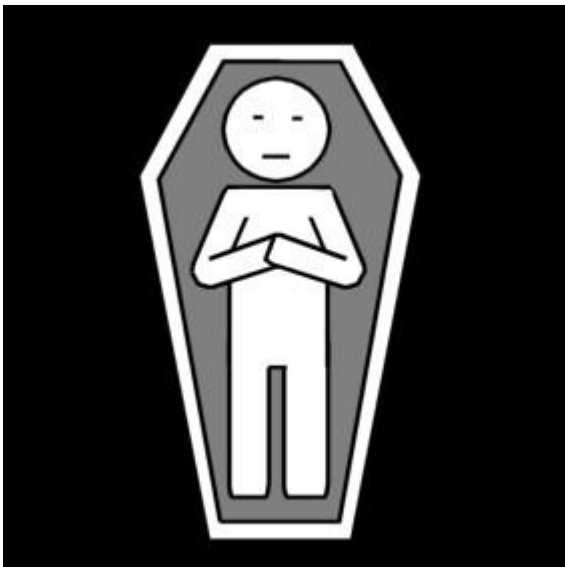


4

Grandma is lying still in a coffin. Grandma can no longer talk or look around. Grandma has died. There are flowers next to Grandma.

(or: Jip places a flower beside Grandma.)

(smell a flower together)



5

Look, a candle. Jip lights a candle too.

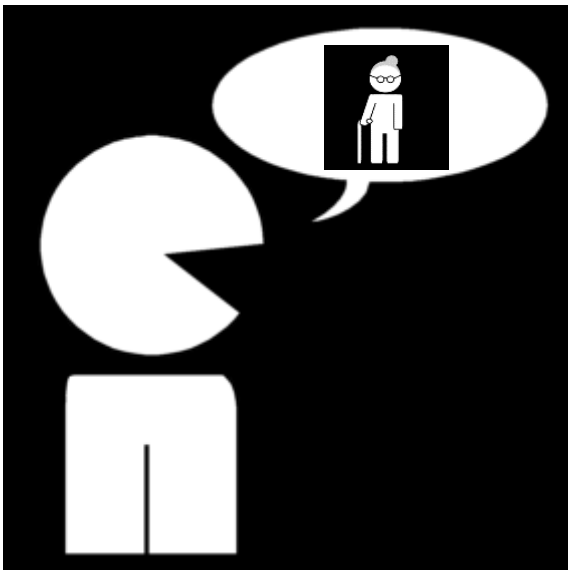
(turn a battery-operated candle on and off)



6

Someone is speaking into a microphone. They are telling stories about Grandma.

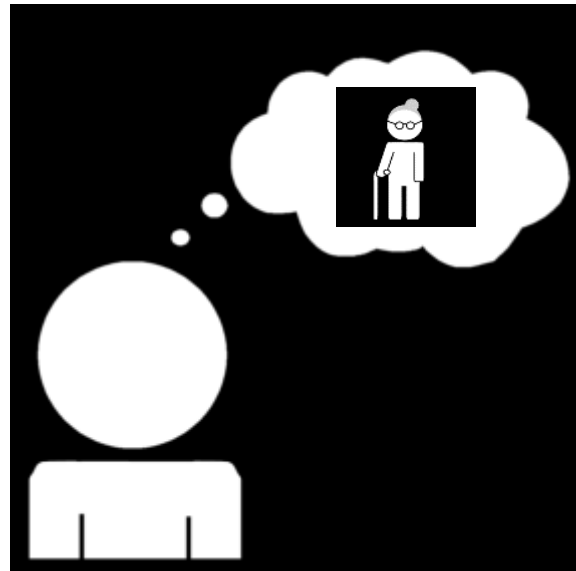
(talk into an echo microphone)



7

Jip hears beautiful music. It is Grandma's music.

(listen to music that was played at the funeral service)



8 Burial

Grandma goes into the ground in her coffin.

Now Grandma is gone.

(feel the sand, optionally bury a small wooden box in sand)

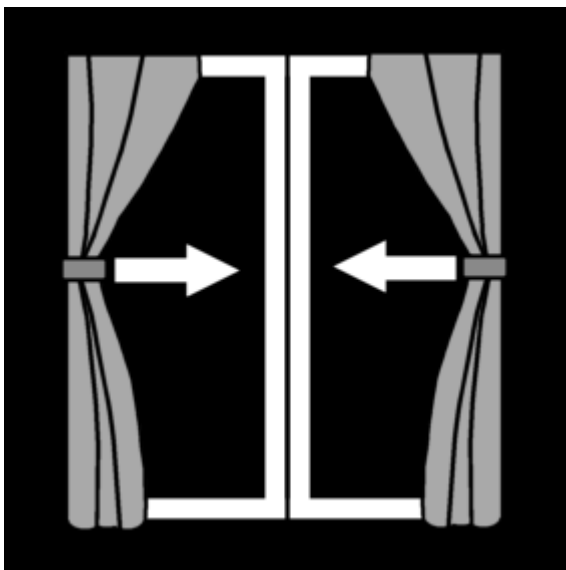


Cremation – curtain

Grandma goes behind the curtain in her coffin.

Now Grandma is gone.

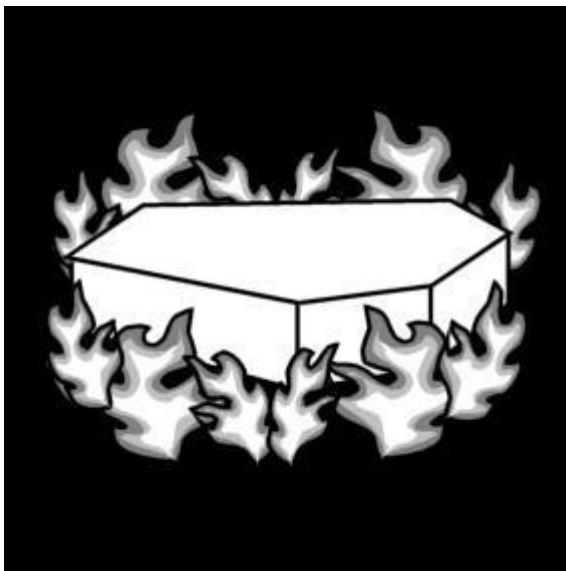
(feel the curtain, hide something behind the curtain)



Crematie – fire

Grandma goes into the fire in her coffin. Now Grandma is gone.

(show a short video of a fire or carefully light a lighter. Note: follow all safety precautions)

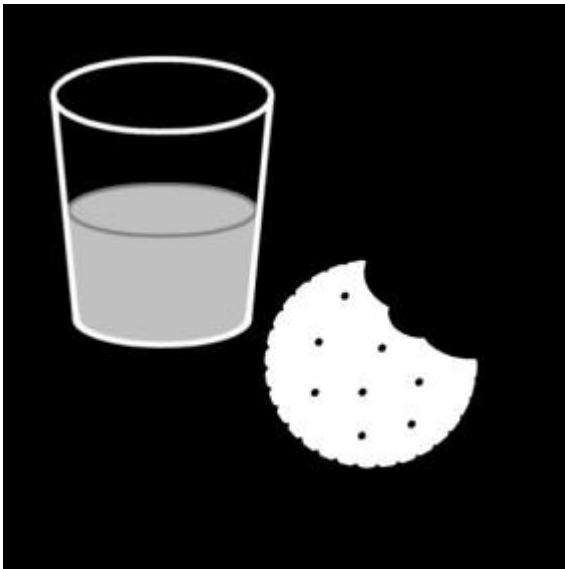


9

People are talking and having something to eat and drink.

Jip gets ... to eat/drink.

(smell and/or taste something that is served after the funeral)

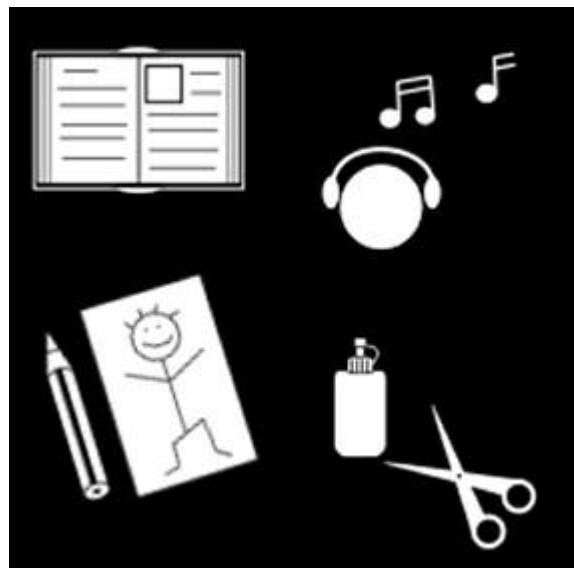
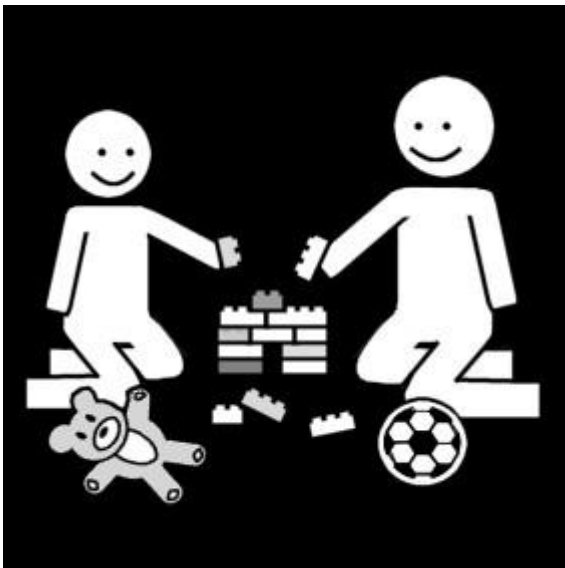


10

The funeral service is over. Grandma is no longer here.

Jip goes biking/playing/blowing bubbles/drawing...

(briefly experience a familiar everyday activity, such as ringing a bicycle bell, playing with a ball, or another meaningful activity)



Instructions for the storyteller

This story contains choices regarding funeral rituals, the deceased person, and accompanying photographs. The story is intended as an example that can be adapted to an individual's own situation, including the use of personal photographs if desired. For additional guidance, see the Guide "Sensory stories for significant life events".

Purpose

This story can help prepare for or process a death and funeral.

Why this story?

A death is always impactful and often brings many emotions. This story helps prepare for and talk about what will happen or what has already happened. It provides opportunities to practice new words and signs related to death and creates a meaningful way to support the grieving process.

Materials needed

- tissue and water
- a nice blouse or dress
- an object associated with one of the person's everyday activities (for example: a ball, bicycle bell, bubbles, coloring book, or puzzle)
- depending on the funeral, choose from:
 - candle
 - echo microphone (toy microphone)
 - music
 - flower
 - sand, curtain, or lighter/video of fire
 - food or drink

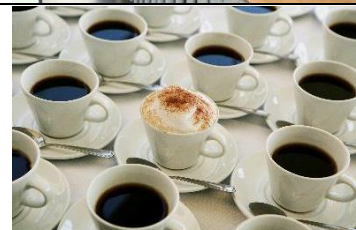
Note: A maximum of eight sensory items is recommended. Choose the items that are most meaningful and representative.



Drip a little water on your cheek or on the cheek of the person you're reading to, and wipe it away with a handkerchief. If touching the cheek feels a bit awkward, you can of course do it on the hand or arm instead. Pretend you're about to cry. Even though crying at a funeral is a sign of sadness, when reading aloud, playing with water and pretending to cry (and comforting each other) can also be fun.

Be careful when identifying who is grieving, and don't assume it's, for example, the person the story is about. That's why in the story, the father or mother is sad, not the son.

		<i>The blouse or dress can be a piece of your own clothing, but it doesn't have to be. The point is to choose special clothes for the funeral. The color of the clothing may be culturally determined or a request from the bereaved. Look at the garment and put it on yourself and/or put it on the person you're reading to, if they'd like.</i>
		<i>Light and extinguish a fake candle. Of course, you can also choose a real candle, if it's safe to do so. Then you can also smell the extinguished candle.</i>
		<i>Choose a real or fake flower. If you use a fake flower, you can spray some perfume on it so you can smell it together. The real flower should already have a scent (if it's fresh). You can also feel the flower, look at it, or tickle each other with it.</i>
		<i>Talk or sing into the microphone. It's not necessarily about what you say, but about experiencing the echo. You can, however, talk together about who will speak or spoke at the funeral (if applicable).</i>
		<i>Listen together to a clip of the music that was played at the funeral. If you set the song or piece of music to a voice button, the person being read to can repeat the clip themselves. You can move along with the music or sing along if you'd like.</i>
		<i>Feel the sand together. You can also discuss how the casket went/is going under the sand, but that's quite abstract and isn't necessary.</i>
		<i>If the coffin disappears behind the curtain without it being clear what's happening to it, you can demonstrate hiding it behind the curtain. Be sure to explain that Grandma won't be coming back from behind the curtain.</i>

		<i>If the funeral includes a visible cremation of the coffin or body, you can show a short video of fire (YouTube) or—if it's safe to do so—light a match or a lighter.</i>
		<i>At a funeral, there's often something to drink and/or eat afterward. Choose something that applies to your situation. Within the story, just take a small bite or sip, or let them smell it. This could also be the scent of coffee, tea, lemonade, or a specific product.</i>
		<i>Choose an activity that is normal and everyday for the person. This makes it clear that, despite the death of one person, life goes on as usual for others. Let the person experience the activity very briefly, just like the other stimuli, and then wrap up the story.</i>

The preparation

- Choose which variant you will read aloud (photos, icons, PCS symbols). If necessary, consult with an expert (e.g. a speech therapist) about which gestures and images (photos, pictograms or PCS symbols) are most suitable for this person.
- Print out the document and put the storysheets in a ring binder or laminate them.
- Are the materials complete?
- See if the story might need to be shortened: are all concepts applicable and recognizable to the person? The story is made in such a way that you can easily leave a page out.
- Are the gestures known?
- Practice the story in advance.

Before you start

Can there be attention for the story? Is the person alert? Are there no physical discomforts? Is the area quiet? Is it right in the day program?

Reading the story

- Read and gesture the page.
- Let the stimulus be experienced.
- Give the person time to experience.
- Name/gesture (again) the most important words.
- If possible, ask a question about the page or the experience.
- Give the person a little more time.
- Respond to reactions, such as facial expressions or pointing.
- Clean up the object in the box.
- Turn over for the next page.

Finishing the story

Finally, you can put the materials back in the box. The story is finished.

Enjoy!

Enjoy sharing the story together. 😊

Additional information

This sensory story may be shared in its existing PDF-form. For more information, contact: zintuigenverhalen@kentalis.nl or visit www.zintuigenverhalen.nl

Credits

Photos purchased from Shutterstock: 3, 6. Photos sourced from Microsoft Stock images: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10. The photos of the coffin in the ground and the coffin in the crematorium were taken by Henk Janssen for Kentalis. The coffin that goes under the curtain was created with AI by means of Copilot.

The images should not be used outside of this document created in Microsoft Word.

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