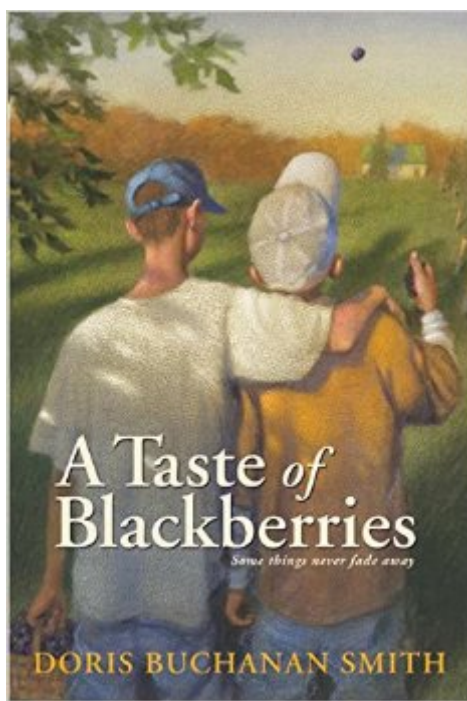


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# A Taste Of Blackberries



## Synopsis

What do you do without your best friend? Jamie isn't afraid of anything. Always ready to get into trouble, then right back out of it, he's a fun and exasperating best friend. But when something terrible happens to Jamie, his best friend has to face the tragedy alone. Without Jamie, there are so many impossible questions to answer -- how can your best friend be gone forever? How can some things, like playing games in the sun or the taste of the blackberries that Jamie loved, go on without him?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (84 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #274,224 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #298 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #691 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#) #4083 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I read *A Taste of Blackberries* as required reading in a Children's Literature class in college. It's the story of a young boy and how he deals with the sudden death of his best friend due to an allergic reaction to a bee sting. My mother had died unexpectedly of a heart attack only weeks before I read it. I'm so glad our instructor chose to include this book in our curriculum! It gave me the opportunity I needed to participate in class discussions of the fears and pain associated with death. And I found I was not alone. Many among us had already lost someone dear to them. Death is a universal experience, and yet one for which I, and many of my classmates had been totally unprepared. I wish I had been exposed more to that particular reality of life as a child and believe that *A Taste of Blackberries* opens the door for just such discussions between parent and child or between children

and their friends. I find, because it is fiction, that it can be an easy way to broach a difficult and frightening subject with children, then encourage a sharing of feelings. I'd like also to say that this is a fairly short book, written for children. It does not deal with all of the more complex, dark issues and feelings that can be associated with death, nor should it. As I said it's written for kids. I personally found the ending of the book to be realistic, yet uplifting and hopeful.

I came across this book in my sister's bedroom. She's only 7 and I think one of her teachers recommended it to her. Anyways, I picked it up and began reading it for no particular reason. This is a fantastic book. This will become my 2nd favorite book. I'm only in high school but this book moved me deeply. I'm not ashamed to say that I cried while I was reading it. This is such a touching story and I'm sad that Jamie had to die but I liked the way that the book ending. It didn't end up really sad. (I hate sad endings) Normally I don't like books where people die but in this book it was so pure and simple that I don't mind it. I would recommend this book to anyone it is a wonderful book that everyone needs to read. The most heartwarming part of this book is where the main character offered (silently) to be Jamie's mom's "substitute son." That part made me cry too. The most interesting part of this book is that the name of the character is never revealed. It makes the story seem so much more personal, as if the reader is actually the main character and is experiencing everything along with him. I can't tell you how many times I love this book, but I love this book! Read it or else you are missing out on one of the best books ever written! :-)

I read this book in 3rd grade. It taught me to appreciate the friendships that I have because you never know when something is going to happen to your friends. I never knew that a bee sting could kill a little boy. I would recommend this book to anyone no matter the age. I will tell my children about this book.

I read this book in third grade and I don't think any of us had experienced a book so sad. This book is based on the death of the narrator's best friend due to a bee sting. It shows how the narrator copes with the tragedy. It is a very good book I recommend to kids in grades 3-5.

I read this book over 20 years ago, when it first came out. I was in the third grade. I can still remember sitting in my house, on my front porch, carrying this book around with me and finishing it as soon as possible. Jamie was the kind of kid we all knew and sometimes didn't like. We may have even wished something bad would happen to him as we read the story. But when it does, we are

taken aback, and just can't believe that he will never play another trick again. The descriptions of picking and eating the blackberries, of attending Jamie's funeral, of eating food that still tastes good even after Jamie's death, are so very vivid to me today, 26 years later. This book is such a classic. I'm so glad you continue to offer it.

I read this book on a whim one day when I was in the mood for a short, young adult book. I was deeply moved by it. It tells the story of a young boy dealing with his friend's sudden, accidental death. It's told in a straight-forward, plain way, but touches one deeply. If it has any fault at all, it might be that the ending is a little rushed, but that's easily overlooked. Anyone who likes children's literature should read this book, as should anyone who likes a lovely, humane story.

I read this book when I was in the 4th grade and I absolutely loved it!!! That was almost 30 years ago, and the story has remained with me ever since. I haven't been able to eat a popsicle in all that time without thinking about the passage where Jamie is so careful not to let his tongue freeze to his own popsicle. I've just purchased the book for my own 4th grade daughter even though I have told her the story repeatedly. This one will stay with you forever!

I read this book in 2nd grade, and now in 7th it haunts me still. In second grade when I picked it up, something struck a chord, and something about it made me feel so...in my place, if I can say that. Something about the way I kept reliving what I pictured when I read the book, and that one phrase that I remember to this day "Jamie is dead darling, dead darling", made me realize- this was the first book I'd chosen that would fit in my real reading style. I learned a lot about what I like to read by this book, because it so perfectly quenched my thirst for a book. Something about the way the friendship, and their personalities, and thoughts, and situations, and reaction...it all just clicked with me. So now I'm reading edgy, bittersweet books filled with tragedy, friendship, loss, and emotions, and all because of this book. And you know what? I wouldn't have it any other way.

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