FOR A PET MEMORIAL

Prayers & Readings

Words to read aloud at a candle, a graveside, or a kitchen table.
For people of faith, for people without one, and for children.

Written by Porchlight · porchlightmemorial.com

PRAYERS

Prayers and blessings

Words for lighting the candle

We light this small flame for _____.
Let it stand for the warmth they brought into this house,
and for the love that does not go out
when a life does.

A Christian prayer

Loving God, maker of every living thing,
we thank you for _____,
who shared our home and our days for _____ years.
Thank you for the greeting at the door,
for loyalty that asked so little,
and for comfort in our hardest seasons.
You see even the sparrow that falls;
we trust that this small life was seen by you, too.
Hold our sadness gently,
and teach us to be as faithful and kind to one another
as _____ was to us.
Amen.

The sparrow line draws on Matthew 10:29.

A blessing for any faith

May the love we shared with _____ stay with us.
May our grief soften with time into gratitude.
May every quiet place they used to rest
feel less empty and more full of memory.
And may we be gentle with ourselves
on the days we miss them most.

READINGS

Poems to read aloud

Porch Light

We left the porch light on tonight,
the way we always did
when you were slow to come in from the yard.
Not because we think you're lost.
Because the light was always where we met you,
and we are not ready
to stop meeting you there.

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The Hours of This House

You kept the hours of this house.
You knew our steps before the door.
We will keep your hours now,
a light, a name, and nothing more
than all the love you gave us first.

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Words of Thanks

Thank you for the mornings you got us out of bed.
Thank you for the walks we didn't want to take
and were always glad we did.
Thank you for sitting close when we cried
and asking nothing for it.
You made this a home.
We will carry that with us.

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FOR A WALK AND FOR CHILDREN

Shorter words

Your Road

For a slow walk on their favorite path.

This was your road.
You knew every post and every gate,
which yard had the cat,
which corner smelled of rain.
We walk it slower now.
We stop where you stopped,
and let our hands remember the leash.

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For a child to read

You were soft and you were funny.
You slept on my feet
and stole my socks.
I will think of you
every time I find a sock
on the floor.
Thank you, _____.
Goodnight.

A child's prayer

Dear God,
thank you for _____.
Thank you for every game
and every cuddle.
Please take good care of _____.
Help me remember
the happy days.
Amen.

Tip: let a child pick which lines to read, or read just one line each.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

A LETTER TO _____

If you're not sure how to start, try one of these: *The first thing I remember about you is… · I still look for you when… · Thank you for… · What I want you to know is…*

With love, _____