

## Grade 1 Week 31

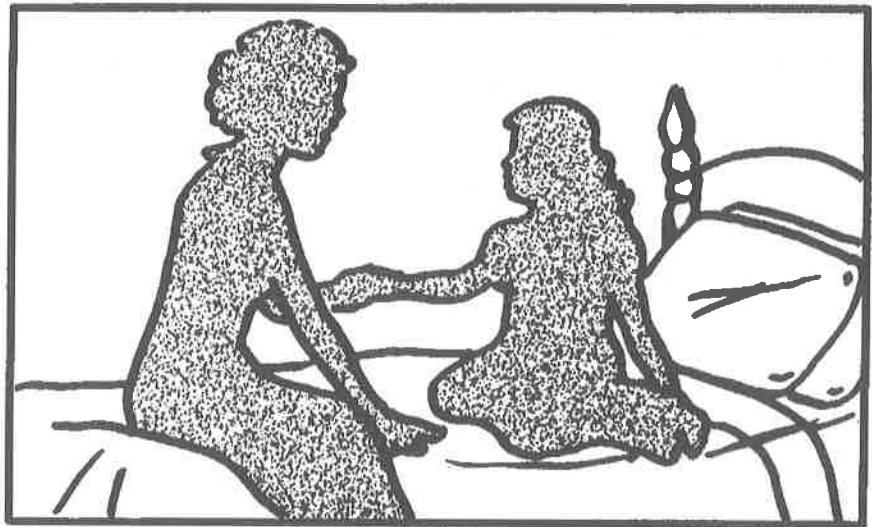
### Death

First graders think about death a lot. They are most fearful that Mother will die, and they have bad dreams about this.

Your child is beginning to be aware of deaths that occur in her immediate surroundings: neighbors, relatives, people at school. She is now realizing that besides dying of old age, people can be killed in auto accidents or wars.

There is also more pre-occupation than is outwardly observable about graves, funerals, and being buried in the ground. First graders discuss these matters with each other and don't like the thought of their relatives or themselves being buried.

Pictures of dead children can cause bad dreams. Seeing a dead animal is an experience a child doesn't forget easily.



### When your child tells "tall tales" or lies

"Mom! She told a lie!"

Before you deliver a lecture, think.

Was it a "tall tale" or a "real lie?" Most first graders are compulsive tall-tale-tellers, much more so than adults would like to believe. A clue to the tale being "tall" is that it is highly illogical, events do not naturally arise from the original "opening scene," and the tale in general is absurd.

When is it a lie?

When it appears that it could be a defensive act—a cover-up or protective story.

Fibbing is a habit that you don't want your child to develop. But more important is the reason behind the fib. If it is defensive, then there is a problem she is concerned about. She doesn't know how to solve it. She has "fibbed"—but the problem is still there bothering her.

Punishing and shaming a child may make you feel like you have set her on the "straight and narrow," but it doesn't do anything for her. She still has the problem.

Tell your child you think she is worried about something. Say, "Maybe I can help." Talk about it quietly at bedtime after the lights are out. She'll sleep better. You'll have greater insight into her needs. Best of all, your child will be developing the habit of finding and looking at the truth squarely.

*"Parents who wish to train up their children in the way they should go, must go in the way in which they would have their children go."*

—Bacon—

