

Rachel's grandfather has come to live with her family. She knows this is because he is dying. Rachel can't help wondering where he will go when he dies. She asks her friends. She asks her rabbi. She asks Zayde. No one has the perfect answer, but soon Rachel finds a way to make peace with her grandfather's passing. She learns to gather all the moments she can, and to honor his life, one small memory at a time.

*"Tender, moving, as perfect a circle as life. A book for when you and your child need it and when you do not."*

—Jane Yolen, author of *Owl Moon*

*"A sweet and uplifting tale of wisdom passing from generation to generation."*

—Rabbi David Wolpe  
Sinai Temple, Los Angeles, CA

*"Masterfully gentle, loving and sensitive...a tremendously helpful resource..."*

—Jan M. Brahms, D. D.  
Rabbi, Congregation Beth Shalom  
The Woodlands, Texas

## ZAYDE COMES TO LIVE

### Honors

*Sydney Taylor Honor Book Award for  
Younger Readers, 2013*



*Parents' Choice Recommended Award,  
2012*



*Notable Social Studies Trade Books for  
Young People /NCSS/CBC/ 2013*

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**Sheri Sinykin**

*Children's Book Author*

*ZAYDE COMES TO LIVE (2012)  
(illustrated by Kristina Swarner)*

*GIVING UP THE GHOST (2007)  
from Peachtree Publishers*

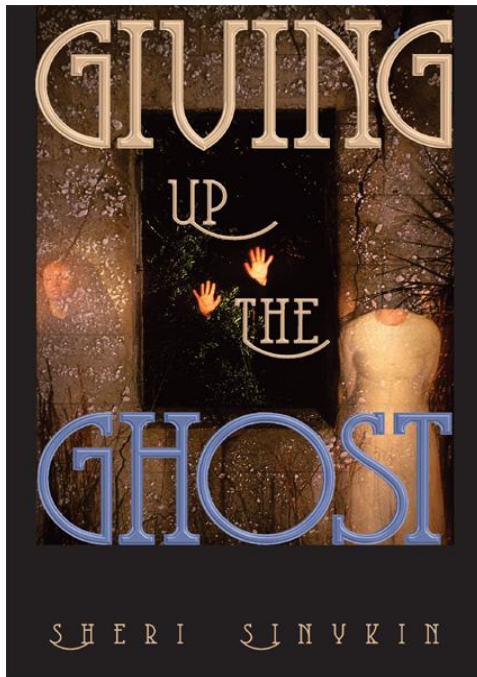
Available to speak

to adults on:

**"GOOD GRIEF: How to Talk to  
Your Child about Death"**

to middle school students on:

**"What We All Need to Know  
about Loss and Grief"**



This suspense novel for readers ages 10-14 is also of special interest to grief counselors, teachers, librarians, and parents concerned for how middle schoolers handle their fears about terminal illness and the eventual death of loved ones.

Thirteen-year-old Davia is afraid of many things: death, unfamiliar places, and the chance of her mom's cancer returning. This summer, two years after Hurricane Katrina, her fears loom even larger, as she and her parents assist with the in-home hospice care of her elderly great-aunt Mari. Everything about the sharp-tongued old woman and her romantic but spooky Louisiana plantation, *Belle Forêt*, frightens Davia. And when she encounters Emilie, the tortured ghost of a spoiled young Creole girl from the nineteenth century, she is even more terrified. Gradually, Davia learns secrets about Emilie and her own family's past from Aunt Mari—stories of premature endings and regrets. As the old woman's health deteriorates, she and Davia are drawn closer. Together, they hope to release Emilie's spirit from *Belle Forêt*.

**KIRKUS REVIEWS:** "Equal parts psychological realism and supernatural thriller...Good choice for reluctant teens."

**Sheri (Cooper) Sinykin** has published nineteen books and dozens of magazine stories for children. She received a BA in Communications-Journalism from Stanford University and a MFA in Writing for Children from Vermont College. After working as a hospice volunteer, a newspaper reporter, and a hospital PR director in Madison, Wisconsin, Sheri now divides her time between south-central Massachusetts in the summer and the Phoenix area in the winter.

**ZAYDE COMES TO LIVE** is her first picture book. Its inspiration came from her experiences as a hospice volunteer, and from a hospice rabbi's assertion that Jewish patients in hospice fare worse than others, because most do not know the Jewish belief system around death and the afterlife.

**GIVING UP THE GHOST**, her most recent middle school novel, was inspired by her mother's eight-and-a-half-year battle with Stage 4B endometrial cancer—and by Sheri's own fear of death and of her mother's eventual passing. The haunted plantation setting draws from her love of New Orleans. Eventual grief counseling, where Sheri was encouraged to participate in play therapy as her character Davia, informed the novel's final revisions.

**Sheri has passion and a unique comfort level around helping children understand death at an age-appropriate level that many adults lack. She hopes her presentations and sensitive treatment of this difficult subject in both picture book and novel formats will provide comfort and healing for children in need.**

## **GIVING UP THE GHOST Honors**

**Young Hoosier Book Award** (nominee, middle grades) —*Association for Indiana Media Educators 2009-2010*

**Kansas State Reading Circle Recommended Reading List** (middle school / junior high) —*Kansas National Education Association 2008*

**Young Adult Top Forty** —*Pennsylvania School Librarians Association 2008*

**Teacher's Guide and Grief Handouts** available at [www.sherisinykin.com](http://www.sherisinykin.com)

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