Top 10 Fictional Tragic Deaths

To me, death is a very important part of literature. It emphasizes a lot of things and is great for character development. So, to keep things in perspective for myself, I’ve created a top ten list of my favorite fictional tragic death.

I’m not claiming these deaths are the saddest or best executed, but they are the ones that had the most impact on me, Personally.

I realize that death does not mean the same thing to every fictional environment. In some stories, it’s as tragic as it is in real life, in others it’s a minor inconvenience. For this list, if the characters treat death a specific way and they treat the current situation like that, than I consider it death. Also, I’m counting deaths of specific characters, so exterminating a population or blowing up a planet doesn’t count.

Also, spoilers for a bunch of different things.

10. LADY 2 (Twlight Princess)

In the Legend of Zelda Twilight Princess, Link’s friends are hiding from the monsters who have invaded the land. Barnes, the resident bomb builder, begins to panic telling everyone that there is no hope. He describes the death of a past villager, how the shadow creatures entered a building, and one more came out than went in, insinuating that they turned LADY 2 into one of them. The story terrifies the children, causing them all to almost lose hope for which Barnes is scolded for by the chief of the village.

This moment always stood out to me as a very rare occasion in the Zelda series. Most Zelda games treated death somewhat light heartidly, or treated the dead as a very scary different species. Twilight Princess was one of the few in the series that had moments where the dead were truly treated like the dead. This one stuck out because it did in the series what death can easily do in real life, drain a person of their hope. You watch as kids, who generally don’t think of death, become more frightened of what Barnes is describing as their inevitable fate. What’s interesting is that the death itself is never shown, just described, yet still has a beautiful execution. It’s one of the moments where Twilight Princess actually succeeded in being darker than its predecesors.

9. Superman (DC Comics)

In DC comics, there was a monster named Doomsday, who rampaged through the world, destroying everyone in its path. One after another, people died to the monster. Finally, various superheroes caught up with it in an attempt to stop it, where the monster proceeded curb stomp them. Finally, it was Superman’s turn to fight. It was the most intense battle he had at the time. When the battle was over, the monster had been stopped, but the Man of Steel was also laying lifeless.

Does this one even need an introduction? The death of Superman is one of the most famous and infamous events in comic book history. For the longest time, Superman was seen as the person who just could be beat. Originally, it was mindblowing to see this kind of event. And the Son of Krypton went out like any decent superhero should, saving the world.

There were Superhero “deaths” before and after Superman, but his will always stick out as the one that defines what it means to die a hero. Superman came face to face with a foe he couldn’t stop unless he gave it his all, and that he did.

8. That One Mouse (The Great Mouse Detective)

7. Ellie (Up)

6. John Henry (Disney’s John Henry)

5. Stitch (Lilo and Stitch 2: Stich Has A Glitch)

4. That Roxas Girl Clone (Kingdom Hearts 358/2)

3. Mufasa (The Lion King)

2. Kitty Pride (Astonishing Xmen)

1. The Merry Go (One Piece)