

2008 GIFT IDEAS FOR KIDS

Book suggestions compiled by librarians at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

PICTURE BOOKS

- Bear Feels Sick* by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman**
Bear is not feeling well at all; he is achy, sneezy, wheezy and sick and in no shape to go outside to play. Mole, Hare, Mouse and the rest of the gang try to make Bear feel as comfortable as possible in his cave.
- Big Words for Little People* by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell**
With grown-up words like cooperate, respect, patience and considerate, a big, boisterous and zany family celebrates the power of language and discovers that words—big or little—are the bridge that connects us all.
- Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp* by Denise Fleming**
Brown Shoes is going on vacation. Betty the kitty is staying with Mrs. Pink Slippers, but Mrs. Pink Slippers does not like dogs. So Buster will be going to ... Cowboy Camp!
- The Busy Little Squirrel* by Nancy Tafuri**
The leaves have started to fall. The air is cold. Squirrel needs to get ready for winter. He cannot nibble with the mice. He does not have time to hop with the frogs or run with the dogs. But there is one thing he can do!
- Clip-Clop!* by Nicola Smee**
One after the other, a group of barnyard friends climb aboard Mr. Horse for a ride. Faster, they beg...faster! But will faster lead to disaster?
- Fancy Nancy: Bonjour, Butterfly* by Jane O'Connor and Robin Preiss Glasser**
Nancy thinks butterflies are simply exquisite. And that is why she can't wait for her friend Bree's Butterfly Birthday. But when Nancy finds out she can't go because her grandparents' fiftieth anniversary party is the same day, she is furious. Will Nancy be able to overcome her disappointment?
- Girls Hold Up This World* by Jada Pinkett-Smith and Donyell Kennedy-McCullough**
While so many girls today struggle with self-doubt, this poem and photo essay focuses on the power ALL girls have within them, regardless of color or creed.
- If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond**
If you give a cat a cupcake, he'll ask for some sprinkles to go with it. When you give him the sprinkles, he might spill some on the floor. Cleaning up will make him hot, so you'll give him a bathing suit ... and that's just the beginning!
- If You're Happy and You Know It* by Jane Cabrera**
In Cabrera's version of the popular children's song, various animals demonstrate the motions for the many verses. Monkey claps his hands, elephant stamps his feet, while giraffe nods his head.
- It's Time to Sleep, My Love* by Nancy Tillman and Eric Metaxas**
As children prepare for bed, the world around them is also settling down for the night. Animals who live in the jungle, the forest, the sea—all whisper to their babies a soft refrain: It's time to sleep, my love.
- Jungle Bullies* by Steven Kroll and Vincent Nguyen**
Why should a large animal get away with bullying a smaller one? That's what happens when Elephant takes Hippo's spot in the pond, which causes Hippo to pick on Lion, Lion to pick on Leopard, and Leopard to pick on Monkey.
- Let's Dance, Little Pookie* by Sandra Boynton**
Pookie's Mom proposes a lively dance together. Pookie, being Pookie, is somewhat hesitant to try something new. But little by little, Pookie is drawn into the dance—hopping, marching, shimmying, singing.
- Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken* by Kate DiCamillo and Harry Bliss**
She was brave. She was fearless. She was feathered. She was a chicken—a not-so-chicken chicken.
- The Pigeon Wants a Puppy* by Mo Willems**
He really, really, REALLY wants one. He'll take really good care of it! What's the matter—don't you want him to be happy?
- Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend* by Mélanie Watt**
In his latest adventure, Scaredy Squirrel sets out to make The Perfect Friend. And once he's spotted a perfectly safe candidate (with no teeth), Scaredy's ready. Armed with a name tag, mittens, a mirror and a lemon, he's prepared to make The Perfect First Impression.
- Thump, Quack, Moo: A Whacky Adventure* by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin**
Everyone is excited. Well, Duck is not excited exactly. But he has a plan. As Farmer Brown designs the corn maze for the festival, Duck does some designing of his own. Guess who's in for a big surprise?



- Too Many Toys* by David Shannon**
Spencer has too many toys! His father trips over them, his mother falls over them, and the house is overflowing with junk. Now its time to give some of the mountain of goodies away, but Spencer finds it hard. In the end, he fills a box, but decides the one toy he can't part with is the box!
- Trucktown (series)* by Jon Scieszka**
Scieszka's work as an elementary school teacher and as founder of a literacy initiative for boys drove him to create Trucktown, a crazy, fun action series for the youngest readers.
- Wabi Sabi* by Mark Reibstein and Ed Young**
Wabi Sabi, a little cat in Kyoto, Japan, had never thought much about her name until friends visiting from another land asked her owner what it meant. At last, the master says, "That's hard to explain." This unsatisfying answer sets Wabi Sabi on a journey to uncover the meaning of her name.
- Wave* by Suzy Lee**
The story of a little girl's day at the beach. Stunning in their simplicity, Lee's illustrations, in just two shades of watercolor, create a vibrant story full of joy and laughter.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOOKS

- Andrew Lost (series)* by J.C. Greenburg and Debbie Palen**
Andrew Dubble is a curious boy who enjoys acquiring knowledge, and curiosity leads him to make major mistakes that put him and his friends in very unusual and, at times, scary situations.
- Babymouse (series)* by Jennifer and Matthew Holm**
Smart, spunky, and sarcastic Babymouse, a wise-cracking rodent, is featured in this black, white, and pink comic. With a distinct voice and charm, she faces life's many issues, makes choices, and learns how to deal with the consequences.
- Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo**
Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, 10-year-old Opal learns 10 things about her long-gone mother from her preacher father, makes new friends among the somewhat unusual residents of her new hometown, Naomi, Florida, and begins to find her place in the world.
- A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever* by Marla Frazee**
When James and Eamon go to a week of Nature Camp and stay at Eamon's grandparents' house, it turns out that their free time spent staying inside, eating waffles, and playing video games is way more interesting than nature. But sometimes things work out best when they don't go exactly as planned.
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)* by Jeff Kinney**
This series contains the journals of the main character, whose name is Greg Heffley. Befitting a child's diary, they are filled with hand written notes and stick drawings of his daily adventures.
- Elephant & Piggie Books (series)* by Mo Willems**
The books feature two lovable and funny characters: an optimistic (and sometimes reckless) pig and a cautious, pessimistic elephant. Children who sat on their parents' laps to have Pigeon read to them will eagerly take the plunge with these books to start reading on their own.
- A Giant Problem* by Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi**
As giants start waking up and destroying everything around their Florida neighborhood, Nick, Laurie, Jules and Cindy work frantically to find a solution.
- If You're Reading This, It's Too Late* by Pseudonymous Bosch**
Mysterious stranger? Anonymous author? Who is Pseudonymous Bosch and how does he know so much about our heroes and heroines? The truth will all be revealed—with time.
- Inkdeath* by Cornelia Funke**
The Adderhead--his immortality bound in a book by Meggie's father, Mo--has ordered his henchmen to plunder the villages. The peasants' only defense is a band of outlaws led by the Bluejay--Mo's fictitious double, whose identity he has reluctantly adopted.
- The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick**
Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy.

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- Magic Tree House (series) by Mary Pope Osborne**
The bestselling Magic Tree House series makes science and history fun by taking you right there, whether it's to France in the Middle Ages, the prairies of America, the bottom of the ocean, or beyond.
- Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig by Kate DiCamillo**
Eugenia and Baby Lincoln may live next door to a pig, but that doesn't stop them from living a gracious life. And the amiable Mercy Watson is equally determined to follow the delightful scent (and delicious taste) of the pansies her thoughtful neighbors are planting to beautify their yard.
- Paula Deen's My First Cookbook by Paula H. Deen**
What better way to celebrate childhood than with pancakes around the kitchen table? Or how about a quick snack of Ants on a Log? Easy, fun recipes to introduce your child to the concepts of cooking.
- Pet Fairy Series by Daisy Meadows**
The Pet Fairies have one of the most important jobs in Fairyland! They work with their special pets to make sure that all animals find safe homes.
- Rainbow Fairy Series by Daisy Meadows**
Fairyland is home to seven colorful sisters. Together, they are the Rainbow Fairies! They keep Fairyland dazzling and bright.
- The Remarkable & Very True Story of Lucy & Snowcap by H. M. Bouwman**
Set on fictional islands off northeast America in 1787, this story features two twelve-year-old girls from different cultures who must join forces to save themselves, their people, and one special baby.
- A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams by Jennifer Bryant and Melissa Sweet**
In this picture book biography of William Carlos Williams, Bryant's engaging prose and Sweet's stunning mixed-media illustrations celebrate the amazing man who found a way to earn a living and to honor his calling to be a poet. Full color.
- Savvy by Ingrid Law**
For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a "savvy"—a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity ... and now it's the eve of Mibs's big day.
- Spyology by Spencer Blake**
The year is 1958, and British spy Spencer Blake, aka "Agent K," is on an undercover mission to expose a deadly criminal organization. As he traverses the globe with his American and Soviet cohorts, he furtively records his secret techniques in a manual for new recruits.
- Stinky by Eleanor Davis**
Stinky is a monster who loves pickles and possums—but is terrified of people! When a new kid enters his swamp, this adorable little monster comes up with all sorts of crazy plans to scare him away. But Stinky quickly learns to conquer his fear.
- Thumbelina, Tiny Runaway Bride by Barbara Ensor**
A contemporary retelling of Andersen's tale, revamped and fleshed out for today's hip tweens.
- Tiger Moth: Kung Pow Chicken by Aaron Reynolds**
Weevil's evil goons have captured Tiger Moth! The fate of this fourth grade ninja rests in the hands of Kung Pow and his kid sister, Amber. Have Tiger's lessons prepared his young apprentice for this life or death bug battle?
- Toy Dance Party by Emily Jenkins and Paul Zelinsky**
Lumphy, Stingray, and Plastic are back! In this sequel to the hugely successful Toys Go Out, the lovable trio finds that their little girl has left for winter vacation and taken a box of dominoes, a stegosaurus puzzle, and two Barbie dolls—but not them. Could she have forgotten them?
- Warriors Box Set: Volumes 1 to 6 by Erin Hunter**
The Clans are in turmoil. ShadowClan has turned its back on StarClan and pledged to follow the dark predictions of Sol, the strange cat who foretold the solar eclipse. But not all the cats have lost faith in their warrior ancestors...
- The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body by David Macaulay**
Vivid illustrations accompany a detailed text explaining the design and function of the human body, starting at the atomic level and ending with immune response, movement and reproduction.
- We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson**
The story of Negro League baseball is the story of gifted athletes and determined owners; of racial discrimination and international sportsmanship; of triumphs and defeats on and off the field. It is a perfect mirror for the social and political history of black America in the first half of the twentieth century.

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HOLIDAY BOOKS

- Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem* by Maya Angelou, Steve Johnson, and Lou Fancher**
In this simple story, a family joins with their community—rich and poor, black and white, Muslim and Jew—to celebrate the holidays. (First read at the 2005 White House tree-lighting ceremony)
- Bear Stays Up for Christmas* by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman**
Bear's friends are determined to keep Bear awake for Christmas! So they wake Bear up and have him help them find a Christmas tree, bake cakes, hang up stockings, and sing Christmas songs. Bear stays up—by discovering that giving is one of the best Christmas presents!
- Christmas Cricket* by Eve Bunting and Timothy Bush**
In a California garden on a rainy night, Cricket feels small and worthless. He hops up some steps and finds himself in a place filled with light and warmth and a tall, sparkling tree. He begins to sing but is scared into silence by two voices, one big and one small. It is then that he makes a marvelous discovery.
- The Everything Kids' Hanukkah Puzzle & Activity Book* by Beth L Blair and Jennifer A Ericsson**
With this book, kids will enjoy more than 100 puzzles and activities about the history of Hanukkah; the meaning behind the various rituals, traditions, and prayers; why certain foods are eaten during Hanukkah; Hanukkah crafts, decorations, and gifts they can make; and more.
- Gingerbread Friends* by Jan Brett**
Confident and cocky, the Gingerbread Baby happens upon a bakery, where he dances and prances in front of a sugar cookie girl, trying to make friends. But she just stares and doesn't say a word, like all the other sweet treats he tries to meet.
- Great Joy* by Kate DiCamillo and Bagram Ibatoulline**
Just before Christmas, an organ grinder and his monkey appear on the street corner outside Frances' apartment. She can't stop thinking about them, especially after she sees the man and his monkey sleeping outside on the cold street at midnight. Even when it is her turn to speak in the Christmas play, all she can think about is the organ grinder's sad eyes.
- I'm Not Santa!* by Jonathan Allen**
Baby Owl is just out in the snowy woods, playing with his sled ... so why does Baby Hare insist on mistaking him for Santa? Is Santa the only one allowed to wear a red hat? And doesn't Baby Hare know the difference between a sled and a sleigh?
- If You Take a Mouse to the Movies* by Laura Numeroff**
If you take a mouse to the movies, he'll ask you for some popcorn. When you give him the popcorn, he'll want to string it all together. Then he'll want to hang it on a Christmas tree. You'll have to buy him one...
- The Lump of Coal* by Lemony Snicket and Brett Helquist**
This is a story about a lump of coal who can think, talk, and move itself around. Is there a more charming holiday tale to behold? Probably, but Lemony Snicket has not written one.
- The Miracle Jar: A Hanukkah Story* by Audrey Penn and Lea Lyon**
Sophie and her brother are excited by the arrival of Hanukkah, and they happily clean the cottage and shine the Menorah as their gift to the family. But when their mother shares her worry that they do not have enough cooking oil to last eight days, their father tells them the story behind the holiday celebration and the miracle of the oil.
- Mrs. Claus Explains It All: (At Last) Answers to the Questions Real Kids Ask!* by Christi Love**
For the first time ever, Mrs. Claus is taking a break from her very busy schedule to answer real questions from children of all ages. Join her on a tour of the North Pole and learn some of the best kept secrets of Christmas.
- Olive the Other Reindeer* by J. Otto Seibold**
You won't understand the premise of this book if you've never sung "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," so let's start there. If you notice that "all of the other reindeer" sounds suspiciously like "Olive, the other reindeer," you've discovered the source of Olive's adventures! Olive is a dog. But when she hears this holiday tune, a bit of an identity crisis sets in.

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- Olivia Helps With Christmas* by Ian Falconer**
Christmas is coming, and Olivia is incredibly busy. She has to wait for Santa, make sure dad sets up the tree, wait for Santa, watch mom make the Christmas dinner, wait for Santa, oversee the care with which the stockings are hung and, of course, open her presents! Do you see how hard it is to be so helpful during the holidays?
- Room for a Little One* by Martin Waddell**
'Tis the eve of Christmas—a cold winter's night—when Kind Ox offers to share his stable by the inn. Assuring each tentative visitor that “there's always room for a little one,” he first gives shelter to Old Dog, then Stray Cat, Small Mouse, and Tired Donkey, who is accompanied by Joseph and a weary Mary.
- Santa Duck* by David Milgrim**
Nicholas Duck loves Christmas, and he is happy to try on the new Santa hat that's mysteriously delivered to his house. But when his friends see him and immediately launch into their Christmas lists, he doesn't know what to do ... until he runs into Santa himself.
- Snow* by Cynthia Rylant and Lauren Stringer**
The lyrical descriptions of the sights and feelings evoked by falling snow blend gorgeously with the rich and beautiful world created by Lauren Stringer's illustrations, in which a young girl, her friend, and her grandmother enjoy the many things a snowy day has to offer.
- There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bell!* by Lucille Colandro**
This time, the hungry old lady swallows a bell, bows, gifts, a sack, a sleigh, and some reindeer! She's about to swallow a candy cane for dessert, when she hears a jolly “Ho! Ho! Ho!” Santa Claus is waiting for a ride! Watch what happens when she whistles, with amazing results!
- Very Marley Christmas* by John Grogan and Richard Cowdrey**
With all the excitement of Christmas approaching, it's no surprise that Marley, the lovable pup with a nose for trouble, wants to get in on the action. Will Marley's good intentions ruin everything before Christmas begins? Or will he manage to share some Christmas magic with his family after all?

STILL STUMPED? WE CAN HELP.

Didn't find the perfect book? Why not talk to the librarians who helped put this guide together? We're the librarians you see in the branches you've been using for years. Stop by and tell us what you're looking for. We'd love to help you.

DONATING A BOOK IN SOMEONE'S NAME

Do these books sound like wonderful even though you know the person you're shopping for complains of having more books than bookshelves? If that sounds familiar, why not donate a book instead? Every \$25 you donate to the 'Give A Book To Your Library' fund puts a book on library shelves for all of Madison County to use. We'll place a bookplate honoring your recipient in the book, and send them a thank-you note to tell them of your gift. Visit <http://hpl.lib.al.us/contribute> to give a gift that gives back to your entire county!

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