

Indiana Department of Education



Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent
Room 229, State House • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798 • 317-232-6665

2006 Holiday Book List

Books make great holiday gifts. This list provides lots of good choices. There is something here for everyone, but it is not an all-inclusive list. You will want to preview every title for appropriateness of content, interest, and reading level for your child or family before giving the book as a gift.

Primary Level

Holiday Books That Make Great Gifts (Pre-school - Grade 3):

- A Charlie Brown Christmas: The Making of a Tradition* - Lee Mendelson
Christmas Alphabet 10th Anniversary Edition [pop-up book] - Robert Sabuda
Christmas in Camelot [Magic Tree House series #29] - Mary Pope Osborne, Sal Murdocca (illus.)
Darinka's Nutcracker Ballet - Rachel Nickerson Luna
Feliz Navidad: Two Stories Celebrating Christmas - Jose Feliciano, David Diaz (illus.)
Festival of Lights: The Story of Hanukkah - Maida Silverman, Carolyn Ewing (illus.)
How the Grinch Stole Christmas! - Dr. Seuss
Lanterns and Firecrackers: A Chinese New Year Story - Jonny Zucker, Jan Barger Cohen
The Legend of the Poinsettia - Tomie dePaola
The Little Drummer Boy - Ezra Jack Keats (illus.)
New Year's Day [True Books series] - Dana Meachen Rau
The Night Before Christmas - Clement C. Moore, Mary Engelbreit (illus.)
Olive, the Other Reindeer - J. Otto Seibold
The Polar Express - Chris Van Allsburg
Ramadan - Suhaib Hamid Ghazi, Omar Rayyan (illus.)
Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story - Angela Shelf Medearis, Daniel Minter (illus.)
Snowman 3D Advent Calendar - Xavi re
Traction Man Is Here! [a Christmas toy story]- Mini Grey
Who's That Knocking on Christmas Eve? [based on Norwegian folktale] - Jan Brett (illus.)

Children's Choices That Make Great Gifts (Pre-school - Grade 3) [See annotations attached.]

Fiction

- Abe Lincoln's Hat* – Martha Brenner, Donald Cook (illus.)
Adventures of Captain Underpants [series] – Dav Pilkey
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day – Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz (illus.)
Amelia Bedelia [series]– Peggy Parish, Fritz Siebel (illus.)
Caps for Sale – Esphyr Slobodkina
Carl's Birthday [series] – Alexandra Day
Clifford's Family [series]– Norman Bridwell [Indiana author]
Courage – Bernard Waber
Curious George in the Snow [series] – H.A. Rey
The Giving Tree – Shel Silverstein
Goodnight Moon – Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (illus.)
Harry the Dirty Dog [series] – Gene Zion, Margaret Bloy Graham (illus.)
If You Take a Mouse to School [series] – Laura Numeroff, Felicia Bond (illus.)
Junie B., First Grader: Boss of Lunch [series] – Barbara Parks, Denise Brunkus (illus.)
The Little Engine that Could – Watty Piper, Loren Long (illus.)
Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers – Karen B. Winnick
Not Afraid of Dogs – Susanna Pitzer, Larry Day (illus.)

Raggedy Ann and Andy and Camel with the Wrinkled Knees – Johnny Gruelle [Indiana author],
Kees Moerbeek (illus.)
Soccer Cats #4: Hat Trick [sports series] – Matt Christopher, Dan Vasconcellos (illus.)
Wheels on the Race Car – Alexander Zane, James Warhola (illus.)
Where the Sidewalk Ends: Poems and Drawings – Shel Silverstein

Non-Fiction

Can You See What I See? Cool Collections: Picture Puzzles to Search and Solves – Walter Wick
Crawdad Creek – Scott Russell Sanders [Indiana Author], Robert Hynes (illus.)
D Is for Doodle – Deborah Zemke
Do Pirates Take Baths? – Kathy Tucker, Nadine Wescott (illus.)
Honest Abe – Edith Kunhardt, Malcah Zeldis (illus.)
I Drive a Dump Truck [Working Wheels series] – Sarah Bridges, Derrick Alderman (illus.),
Denise Shea (illus.)
I Spy! School Days – Jean Marzollo, Walter Wick (illus.)
*Kids Love Indiana: A Parent's Guide to Exploring Fun Places in Indiana with Children Year
Round!* – George and Michele Zavatsky
Knock-Knock Jokes [Laughing Matters series]– Pam Rosenberg, Patrick Girouard (illus.)
Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor [series]– Joanna Cole, Bruce Degen (illus.)
Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates – Jonah Winter, Raul Colon (illus.)
When Marian Sang: True Recital of Marian Anderson – Pam Ryan, Brian Selznick (illus.)

Other Good Reads and Award Winners That Make Great Gifts (Pre-school -Grade 3):

Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books - Kay Winters, Nancy Carpenter (illus.)
Achoo! Bang! Crash! The Noisy Alphabet - Ross MacDonald (illus.)
Cooking Rocks! Rachael Ray's 30-Minute Meals for Kids - Rachael Ray
Count on Pablo [Math Matters series] - Barbara Derubertis, Rebecca McKillip Thornburgh (illus.), Rebecca Thornburgh
(illus.)
Dooby Dooby Moo [series]- Doreen Cronin, Betsy Lewin (illus.)
Epossumondas- Coleen Salley, Janet Stevens (illus.)
George Washington's Teeth - Deborah Chandra, Madeleine Comora, Brock Cole
I Fall Down [gravity exercises - Science Play series] - Vicki Cobb, Julia Gorton (illus.)
James Herriot's Treasury for Children: Warm and Joyful Tales by the Author of All Creatures Great and Small - James
Herriot
Jim Thorpe's Bright Path [Native American Olympic champion]- Joseph Bruchac, S. D. Nelson (illus.)
Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale - Mo Willems (illus.)
Math Curse - Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith (illus.)
Math Fables: Lessons That Count - Greg Tang, Heather Cahoon (illus.)
Maya & Miguel: Chapter Book #1 Neighborhood Friends [English/Spanish series] – Crystal Velasquez
The Monster Who Ate My Peas - Danny Schnitzlein, Matt Faulkner (illus.)
Oh Say, I Can't See [Time Warp Trio series] - Jon Scieszka, Adam McCauley (illus.)
The People Could Fly: The Picture Book - Virginia Hamilton, Leo and Diane Dillon (illus.)
The Red Book [wordless picture book] - Barbara Lehman
Skippyjon Jones in Mummy Trouble - Judy Schachner
Snowflake Bentley - Jacqueline Briggs Martin, Mary Azarian (illus.)
Stars Beneath Your Bed: The Surprising Story of Dust - April Sayre [Indiana author], Ann Jonas (illus.)
Talking T. Rex [A to Z Mystery series] - Ron Roy, John Steven Gurney (illus.)
The 20th-Century Children's Book Treasury: Picture Books and Stories to Read Aloud - Janet Schulman (ed.)
When the Frost Is on the Punkin - James Whitcomb Riley [Indiana poet], Glenna Lang (illus.)
The World According to Humphrey - Betty G. Birney
Your Favorite Seuss: A Baker's Dozen by the One and Only Dr. Seuss - Dr. Seuss, Molly Leach (designer)

Intermediate and Middle School Levels

Holiday Books That Make Great Gifts (Grades 4-8):

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - Barbara Robinson
Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas Treasury for Kids: A Story a Day from December 1st Through Christmas for Kids and Their Families – Jack Canfield, et al
A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens, Dean Morrissey (illus.)
Christmas Fun: Great Things to Make and Do – Deri Robins
Christmas Treasury: Heirloom Edition – Christian Birmingham
Circle of Wonder: A Native American Christmas Story – N. Scott Momaday
Hallelujah Handel – Douglas Cowling, Jason Walker (illus.)
Holly, Reindeer, and Colored Lights: The Story of the Christmas Symbols -Edna Barth, Ursula Arndt (illus.)
A Little House Christmas Treasury: Festive Holiday Stories [Little House series] – Laura Ingalls Wilder, Garth Williams (illus.)
The Power of Light: Eight Stories for Hanukkah – Isaac Bashevis Singer, Irene Lieblich (illus.)
Ramadan – Susan L. Douglass, Jeni Reeves (illus.)
Seven Days of Kwanzaa – Angela Shelf Medearis
A Simply Wonderful Christmas: A Literary Advent Calendar - Silke Leffler (ed.)
The Twelve Days of Christmas: A Pop-up Celebration - Robert Sabuda (illus.)

Children's and Teen's Choices That Make Great Gifts (Grades 4-8) [See annotations attached.]

Fiction

Airborn – Kenneth Opper
Anne of Green Gables [series] – L.M. Montgomery
Boston Jane Series: An Adventure – Jennifer Holm
Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor – Harry Mazer
Dealing with Dragons: The Enchanted Forest Chronicles Book 1 – Patricia Wrede
Esperanza Rising – Ram Ryan
Flush – Carl Hiaasen
The Tenth Garfield Treasury – Jim Davis [Indiana author]
Great Illustrated Classics for Boys [20-book set]
Great Illustrated Classics for Girls [20-book set]
Hatchet – Gary Paulsen
The Hobbit – JRR Tolkien.
Inkheart – Cornelia Funke
Long Way from Chicago – Richard Peck
Peter and the Starcatchers – Dave Barry, Ridley Pearson
Pictures of Hollis Woods – Patricia Giff
Running Out of Time [Indiana Setting] – Margaret Peterson Haddix
Shiloh – Phyllis Naylor [Indiana author], Barry Moser
Shoeless Joe & Me [Baseball Card series]– Dan Gutman
Stormbreaker [series] – Anthony Horowitz
Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech

Non-Fiction

Best Ever Paper Airplanes – Norman Schmidt
DC Comics Encyclopedia – Phil Jimenez
Draw 50 Sharks, Whales, and Other Sea Creatures - Lee Ames
Emeril's There's a Chef in My Soup! - Emeril Lagasse, Charles Yuen
Hiking Indiana – Phil Bloom
How to Draw Indiana's Sights and Symbols – Jenny Deinard, Jamie Grecco
Jazz – Walter Dean Myers, Christopher Myers (illus.)
Pirates – John Matthews
Race to Save the Lord God Bird – Phillip Hoose

Other Good Reads and Award Winners That Make Great Gifts (Grades 4-8)

The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History - Jennifer Armstrong, Roger Roth (illus.)

The Best of James Whitcomb Riley [Indiana poet] - Donald C. Manlove (ed.)

Charlotte's Web Signature Edition - E. B. White, Garth Williams (illus.)

The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival – Mona Golabek, Lee Cohen

The Chronicles of Narnia [series] – C. S. Lewis, Pauline Baynes (illus.)

The Complete Book of Skateboards and Skateboarding Gear - Brian Wingate

Eragon [Book 1, Inheritance series] - Christopher Paolini

Everything Kids' Cookbook: From Mac 'N Cheese to Double Chocolate Chip Cookies-All You Need to Have Some Finger Lickin' Fun – Sandra Nissenberg

Forces of Nature: The Awesome Power of Volcanoes, Earthquakes, and Tornadoes – Catherine O'Neill Grace

The Grapes of Math [math riddles] – Gregory Tang, Harry Briggs (illus.)

Guys Write for Guys Read [stories by 80 authors from Lloyd Alexander to Paul Zelinsky] – Jon Scieszka (ed.)

Looking for Seabirds: Journal from an Alaskan Voyage - Sophie Webb

The Lord of the Rings [series] - J. R. R. Tolkien

Math-terpieces – Gregory Tang, Greg Paprocki (illus.)

Molly Moon Stops the World [series]- Georgia Byng

Oprah Winfrey: "I Don't Believe in Failure" - Robin Westin

The Phantom Tollbooth - Norton Jester

Problem Solving and Word Problems [Math Success series] – Rebecca Wingard-Nelson

Runny Babbit: A Billy Sook - Shel Silverstein

Star Wars Complete Visual Dictionary - DK Publishing (ed.)

The Tale of Despereaux - Kate DiCamillo, Timothy B. Ering (illus.)

The Toothpaste Millionaire - Jean Merrill

Toys Go Out - Emily Jenkins, Paul Zelinsky (illus.)

Tuck Everlasting - Natalie Babbitt

A Series of Unfortunate Events [series] – Lemony Snicket, Brett Helquist

The Signers: The 56 Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence - Dennis Brindell Fradin, Michael McCurdy (illus.)

FamilyFun's Parties: 100 Party Plans for Birthdays, Holidays & Every Day - Deanna F. Cook

High School and Older

Holiday Books That Make Great Gifts (Grades 9-12+):

Christmas at the New Yorker: Stories, Poems, Humor, and Art [75 year collection of famous authors, such as Garrison Keillor, Phyllis McGinley, Alice Munro, H. L. Mencken, Robert Pinsky, James Thurber, E. B. White, etc.] – John Updike (foreword)

A Christmas Memory, One Christmas and the Thanksgiving Visitor - Truman Capote

The Christmas Scrapbook: A Harmony Story [series] – Philip Gulley [Indiana author, PBS television host]

Christmas Songs Made in America: Favorite Holiday Melodies and the Stories of Their Origins - Albert Menendez, Shirley C. Menendez

Fruits of the Harvest: Recipes to Celebrate Kwanzaa and Other Holidays – Eric V. Copage

The Gift of the Magi – O. Henry, Lisbeth Zwerger (illus.)

Hanukkah Lights: Stories of the Season [2004 National Public Radio Holiday collection] – Sandra Dionisi (illus.), Susan Stamberg (intro.), Murray Horwitz (intro.)

It's a Wonderful Life - Stephen Cox

Recipes for Ramadan – Indrani Ibrahim

Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas – Ace Collins

The Story of the Trapp Family Singers [basis for the musical *The Sound of Music*] – Maria Augusta Trapp, Maria Augusta Von Trapp

Young Peoples' Choices That Make Great Gifts (Grades 9-12+)

[See annotations attached.]

Fiction

Anna and the King of Siam [basis for the musical *The King and I*] – Margaret Landon
Code Orange – Caroline Cooney
Code Talkers: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII – Joseph Bruchac
Crystal Cave (The Arthurian Saga, Book 1) – Mary Stewart
Dune (Dune Chronicles, Book 1) – Frank Herbert
Eyre Affair [literary detective novel] – Jasper Fforde
Follow the River: A Novel Based on the True Ordeal of Mary Ingles – James Alexander Thom [Indiana author]
A Girl Named Zippy: Growing Up Small in Mooreland, Indiana – Haven Kimmel [Indiana author]
Heart of a Champion [baseball]- Carl Deuker
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe – Douglas Adams
Missing Persons: The Chocolate Lover [Indiana setting] (series) – M.E. Rabb
Truth About Forever – Sarah Dessen

Non-Fiction

365: No Repeats [30-minute meal cookbook] – Rachael Ray
Book of Sudoku: The Hot New Puzzle Craze – Micheal Mephram
Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture – Ross King
Conversations with Lincoln – Charles M. Segal, David Donald
Copy This! – Paul Orfaleo
Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation – Lynn Truss
Got Tape? Roll Out the Fun with Duct Tape – Ellie Schiedermayer
Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by 20th Century American Artists – Jan Greenberg
How to Survive a Robot Uprising – Daniel Wilson
Physics of Superheroes – James Kakalios
Rocket Boys [also called *October Sky*] – Homer Hickam
Seabiscuit: An American Legend – Laura Hillenbrand
Superhero Handbook – Michael Powell
Team of Rivals: Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln – Doris Goodwin
Toon Art: The Graphic Art of Digital Cartooning – Steven Withrow
Working Fire: The Making of an Accidental Fireman – Zac Unger

Other Good Reads and Award Winners That Make Great Gifts (Grades 9-12+)

1776 – David McCullough
7th Heaven: Four Years with the Camden Family [based on the television series] – Cathy East Dubowski
All Creatures Great and Small - James Herriot
The Cartoon Guide to Physics - Larry Gonick
Cesar's Way: The Natural, Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems- Cesar Millan, Melissa Jo Peltier (ed.)
Cosmos - Carl Sagan
Creating Keepsakes: Scrapbooking Family Heritage - Creating Keepsakes Editors
Democracy in America - Alexis de Tocqueville
Frozen in Time: The Enduring Legacy of the 1961 U. S. Figure Skating Team - Nikki Nichols [Indiana author]
Garfield's Guide to Everything - Jim Davis [Indiana author]
Like Mother, Like Daughter (Gilmore Girls, No. 1) [based on the television series] – Catherine Clark
Heading Out (The Start of Some Splendid Careers) - Gloria Kamen (ed.)
The Killer Angels [Battle of Gettysburg] - Michael Shaara
Life by the Numbers [companion book to the PBS series "Life by the Numbers"] - Keith Devlin
Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words - Douglas L. Wilson
Live Your Best Life: A Treasury of Wisdom, Wit, Advice, Interviews, and Inspiration from O, The Oprah Magazine – O, the Oprah Magazine(eds.)

March of the Penguins: The Official Companion to the Major Motion Picture - Luc Jacquet,
Jerome Maison (photographer)

Making Family Journals: Projects and Ideas for Sharing and Recording Memories Together – Linda Blinn

The Mathematical Tourist: New and Updated Snapshots of Modern Mathematics- Ivars Peterson

Never Mind Success--Go for Greatness!: The Best Advice I've Ever Received - Tavis Smiley
[Indiana author, PBS television host]

Our Family History - Reader's Digest Editors

The Princess Diaries [series] - Meg Cabot

Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination [from National Geographic with the Museum of Science Boston] –
Anthony Daniels

Tiger Woods: A Biography - Lawrence J. Londino

Ultimate Encyclopedia of Cats, Cat Breeds and Cat Care - Alan Edwards

Walt Disney: The Triumph of the American Imagination - Neal Gabler

2006 Holiday List Annotations (PS - Grade 12+)

Children's Choices That Make Great Gifts (Pre-school - Grade 3)

Fiction

Abe Lincoln's Hat – Martha Brenner, Donald Cook (illus.)

Abe used his hat for more than keeping his head warm! **Comment:** Discover how our 16th President kept important papers in his hat. Watercolor illustrations compliment the text.

Adventures of Captain Underpants [series] – Dav Pilkey

George and Harold turn their principal into a superhero. **Comment:** The story is funny and has mega-kid appeal. Who won't love a superhero that wears underpants? One of the most popular series for 3rd graders. Available in Spanish and in boxed sets. Series: Captain Underpants. There are 14+ titles.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day – Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz (illus.)

Meet Alexander who just knows he's going to have a bad day, and he's right! **Comment:** The black-and-white illustrations capture the day and the drama. Readers identify with Alexander and realize everyone has bad days. Other Titles: *Absolutely Positively Alexander*; *Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday*; *Alexander, Who's Not Going to Move*.

Amelia Bedelia [series] – Peggy Parish, Fritz Siebel (illus.)

Meet Amelia, the housekeeper who takes everything literally! **Comment:** These stories are full of laughs. A delight to read and a bedtime favorite! Other Titles: *Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping*; *Calling Doctor Amelia Bedelia*; *Come Back, Amelia Bedelia*. Available in Spanish.

Caps for Sale – Esphyr Slobodkina

While the peddler is sleeping, the monkeys steal his caps. The fun begins when the peddler tries to get them back.

Comment: For over 60 years, children have loved this story. It is a great read aloud. Be prepared to read and reread this treasure.

Carl's Birthday [series]– Alexandra Day

Comment: Few words but outstanding illustrations tell the story of the beloved Carl, the family dog. Available in board books.

Clifford's Family [series]– Norman Bridwell [Indiana Author]

Comment: Young readers will love the antics of Clifford, the big red dog. Similar Series: Arthur; Franklin. Available in Spanish.

Courage – Bernard Waber

Comment: A good book to read aloud that presents different scenarios about what courage is. Adults might not agree with all of them but young readers will. This book could be used as a springboard for family discussions.

Curious George in the Snow [series] – H.A. Rey

Meet the monkey, Curious George, and the man with the yellow hat. Everything fascinates George, and that always leads to an adventure. Mischievous is his middle name! **Comment:** A recent family movie has revived interest in the Curious George books.

The Giving Tree – Shel Silverstein

When an old man rests upon a stump, he realizes the tree provided him with so many things throughout his life. He never understood the tree's sacrifice until it was too late. **Comment:** Although 40 years old, this story will touch your heart. It has an environmental message for all. It is a great discussion-prompting book.

Goodnight Moon – Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (illus.)

Comment: Published 60 years ago, *Goodnight Moon* has captured the hearts of children for decades. Colorful illustrations and a simple rhyming text make this book part of the bedtime ritual.

Harry the Dirty Dog [series] – Gene Zion, Margaret Bloy Graham (illus.)

Comment: Harry has been lovable for over 50 years! Whether Harry is a white dog with black spots or a black dog with white spots, Harry will delight young readers. Other Titles by Gene Zion: *Harry and the Lady Next Door; Harry by the Sea; No Roses for Harry*. Available in Spanish.

If You Take a Mouse to School [series]– Laura Numeroff, Felicia Bond (illus.)

Mouse goes to school and discovers new activities. His excitement fascinates the class. **Comment:** Illustrations are delightful. Other Titles: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie; If You Give a Pig a Pancake; If You Take a Mouse to the Movies*. Available in Spanish.

Junie B., First Grader: Boss of Lunch [series] – Barbara Parks, Denise Brunkus (illus.)

Junie B. has all the fears that most first graders experience. **Comment:** This is a must read! Readers identify with her. This is the #1 choice of 1-3 grade girls. Series: Junie B. There are 20+ titles in the series. Available in boxed sets. Similar Classic Series by Beverly Cleary: Ramona; Henry Huggins; Ribsy.

The Little Engine that Could – Watty Piper, Loren Long (illus.)

The classic story of never giving up helps young readers to understand how the little engine succeeds. **Comment:** This story first appeared in 1930 and is still popular. The story transcends generations. A large format has recently been published.

Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers – Karen B. Winnick

This is the story of how 11-year old Grace Bedwell writes to Lincoln and suggests he should grow a beard. After the election, Grace gets to meet President Lincoln. **Comment:** The actual letters are reproduced and included at the end of the book.

Not Afraid of Dogs – Susanna Pitzer, Larry Day (illus.)

Daniel is not, absolutely not, afraid of anything! Well, anything that is except dogs. When his aunt leaves her puppy, Daniel refuses to come out of his room until he absolutely must! **Comment:** Funny illustrations compliment the text and make this a delightful story. Boys will love this one!

Raggedy Ann and Andy and Camel with the Wrinkled Knees – Johnny Gruelle [Indiana Author], Kees Moerbeek (illus.)

Together with their friend Camel, Raggedy Ann and Andy search for Babette, a missing doll. **Comment:** For over 80 years, Raggedy Ann & Andy have entertained readers with their nursery adventures.

Soccer Cats #4: Hat Trick [sports series]– Matt Christopher, Dan Vasconcellos (illus.)

This book combines soccer, good sportsmanship and family values. **Comment:** Christopher has written over 65 sports books. He is a popular author with students in grades 4-6, especially boys. Series: 11 Soccer Cats. Other Titles: *Captain Contest; Operation Baby-Sitter; Secret Weapon; Masters of Disasters*.

Wheels on the Race Car – Alexander Zane, James Warhola (illus.)

The cars are off and racing to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.” Each verse highlights an action related to racing. **Comment:** A great read aloud and fun for the family. Too action-packed for bedtime reading!

Where the Sidewalk Ends: Poems and Drawings – Shel Silverstein

Simple line drawings compliment poems with which readers can identify. **Comments:** From not going to school to turning into a TV set, readers will laugh at the verses. Celebrating 32 years in publication, this work is appropriate for all ages. Other Titles: *Light in the Attic; Falling Up*.

Non-Fiction

Can You See What I See? Cool Collections: Picture Puzzles to Search and Solves – Walter Wick

Twelve picture puzzles range from buttons, nature, to the junk drawer. Rhyming verses direct the reader to find certain items. The same toy figure is hidden in each puzzle. **Comment:** Hours of fun! **Series:** Can You See What I See? **Other Titles:** *Dinosaurs; Once Upon a Time; Night Before Christmas.*

Crawdad Creek – Scott Russell Sanders [Indiana Author], Robert Hynes (illus.)

Elizabeth and her brother share the discoveries of the creek. **Comment:** Beautiful illustrations will have readers looking for their own creek! Use this book prior to visiting a state park. Paperback only.

D Is for Doodle – Deborah Zemke

Both the lower and upper case of each letter is turned into a drawing of something that starts with the letter. Each illustrated creation takes about six steps. **Comment:** This book can be helpful when learning or reinforcing the alphabet and is just plain fun for older artists!

Do Pirates Take Baths? – Kathy Tucker, Nadine Wescott (illus.)

Positive verses explore the life of a pirate. **Comment:** Fun to read! Illustrations are caricatures. Students are fascinated with pirates. This book is a good starter. Paperback only.

Honest Abe – Edith Kunhardt, Malcah Zeldis (illus.)

Simple text and vivid illustrations introduce young readers to President Lincoln. The text covers Lincoln's life from a log house to the white house. **Comment:** This book is a nice way to introduce young readers to biographies. The illustrations are gorgeous.

I Drive a Dump Truck [Working Wheels series] – Sarah Bridges, Derrick Alderman (illus.)

Comment: Large trucks and equipment fascinate primary students. Readers will enjoy the colorful pictures. **Series:** Working Wheels. **Other Titles:** *I Drive a Snowplow; I Drive a Freight Train; I Drive a Tractor; I Drive a Backhoe.*

I Spy! School Days – Jean Marzollo, Walter Wick (illus.)

Rhyming text guides the reader to look for specific objects in the illustrations. Objects are common everyday household items. **Comment:** This book provides good activities for adults and children on rainy days. Consider giving a magnifying glass with the book. Available as puzzles.

Kids Love Indiana: A Parent's Guide to Exploring Fun Places in Indiana with Children

Year Round! – George and Michele Zavatsky

Each chapter identifies a different area in Indiana. Within the chapters, there are places to visit that appeal to children. Phone numbers, hours and descriptions are included. **Comment:** A perfect resource for planning short summer vacations, a long weekend or a special day.

Knock-Knock Jokes [Laughing Matters series] – Pam Rosenberg, Patrick Girouard (illus.)

This book has some old and some new jokes, along with tongue-twisters. **Comment:** It provides hours of fun. Colorful cartoons clarify the jokes. **Other Titles:** *Dinosaur Jokes; Tongue Twisters.*

Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor [series] – Joanna Cole, Bruce Degen (illus.)

Miss Frizzle's science lesson is about the ocean. Students and teacher board the bus and are transported to the ocean floor. **Comment:** This is factual science within a fictional story. The science content is well researched and accurate. Humor and the author's approach make you wish you were along for the ride! **Series:** Magic School Bus.

Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates – Jonah Winter, Raul Colon (illus.)

A picture-book biography about a player that was bigger than the game. **Comment:** Color and black-and-white illustrations enhance the story. Clemente was a trailblazer for Latino ballplayers. This book is a great way to introduce readers to biographies.

When Marian Sang: True Recital of Marian Anderson – Pam Ryan, Brian Selznick (illus.)

Marian Anderson's trip to the Metropolitan Opera inspired her to strive for her dream. **Comment:** Illustrations and text combine to make an amazing book! This is a wonderful introduction to Marian Anderson, a famous opera star.

Children's and Teen's Choices That Make Great Gifts (Grades 4-8)

Fiction

Airborn – Kenneth Oppel

Comments: This Victorian Era fantasy adventure has everything! Deserted island, pirates, flying creatures, mystery, a little romance and humor! Readers will want to read the sequel, *Skybreaker*.

Anne of Green Gables [series] – L.M. Montgomery

Although expecting a boy to help with the farming, Matthew and Marilla agree they can adjust the situation so that it might work out with a young girl, Anne, and three lives are changed forever. **Comment:** This is a heart warming classic of Anne's adventures in Avonlea. **Other Titles:** *Anne of the Island*; *Anne of Avonlea*; *Windy Poplars*; *House of Dreams*; *Ingleside*; *Rainbow Valley*; *Rilla of Ingleside*.

Boston Jane Series: An Adventure – Jennifer Holm

After attending a Young Ladies Academy in Philadelphia, Jane sails for the northwest wilderness to await her fiancée's arrival. When he doesn't arrive, Jane faces endless challenges and discovers what is proper in the East doesn't always work in the wilderness. **Comment:** Set in the 1840s, this is a great story for introducing readers to historical fiction. **Other Titles:** *Wilderness Days*; *The Claim*.

Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor – Harry Mazer

Adam's father is stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1941 when the attack comes. An officer mistakes him for an enlisted man and orders him to action. Adam works to save lives. **Comment:** Quick pace and nonstop action will appeal to even the most reluctant reader.

Dealing with Dragons: The Enchanted Forest Chronicles Book 1 – Patricia Wrede

Princess Cimorene, bored and tired of the life of a princess, decides to leave home rather than marry a dim-witted prince. Captured by a good-hearted dragon, her life then becomes anything but dull! **Comments:** This is excellent fantasy for teens. Girls like this book. Available in a boxed set. **Series:** Enchanted Forest Chronicles. **Other Titles:** *Searching for Dragons*; *Calling on Dragons*; *Talking to Dragons*.

Esperanza Rising – Ram Ryan

Esperanza and her mother must flee Mexico. Esperanza goes from having everything to having almost nothing. In her new life during the Great Depression in the 1930s, she must work as a field hand and take care of her mother. **Comment:** Esperanza's determination and love for her mother make this book a must read.

Flush – Carl Hiaasen

Noah and Abbey understand why their father sank a casino boat that he felt was endangering the Florida Keys. The question is whether the family can survive his arrest? **Comments:** This book is perfect for readers who love nature. Students loved his first book – *Hoot*. Both make excellent gifts.

The Tenth Garfield Treasury – Jim Davis [Indiana author]

Comments: Garfield fans will love this collection of Sunday comics about the adventures of this fat and sassy cat. Fans will want to collect all the Treasuries that span over 20 years. They will read and reread this book all year long! **Other Titles:** *Garfield Treasury, Volumes 1-9*.

Great Illustrated Classics for Boys [20-book set]

Great Illustrated Classics for Girls [20-book set]

Comments: This series has over 40 individual titles that appeal to all readers. From authors Louisa Alcott to Jules Verne, this is a nice series to collect. Large type and illustrations make this series a favorite. This is one of the most popular series in upper elementary and middle school.

Hatchet – Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Brian is the only passenger on a small plane that is taking him to see his father. The plane crashes into a lake, and Brian swims ashore with only a small hatchet as a tool. **Comments:** This is the story of how Brian survives 54 days alone in the Canadian wilderness. It appeals to both boys and girls. Other Titles: *Brian's Winter*; *Brian's Return*; *Brian's Hunt*.

The Hobbit – JRR Tolkien

Comments: Meet Tolkien's favorite characters, Hobbits. They live in the ground, never wear shoes and eat six meals a day. Sequel: *Lord of the Rings*. Series: Middle Earth. Available in Spanish and in boxed sets.

Inkheart – Cornelia Funke

Meggie's father can read characters right out of a book into the real world. When she was three, he read from *Inkheart* and some characters escaped while her mother disappeared into the novel. Now Meggie must find the author to write a sequel in hopes she can find her mother. **Comment:** Funke is the leading fantasy writer for children and young adults. Other Titles: *The Great Good Thing*; *Into the Labyrinth*.

Long Way from Chicago – Richard Peck

Joe and Mary Alice spend August with their grandmother during the Great Depression of the 1930s. There's never a dull moment as grandma uses wit and a sense of what's right to survive in a small town. Grandma is a law unto herself!

Comments: You will love grandma and her sense of justice. If you want a story that makes you laugh, this is it. It is also a great read aloud. Sequel: *A Year Down Yonder*.

Peter and the Starcatchers – Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

This story brings together the book and the Disney movie of the same name. The reader meets Peter and a couple of new characters. **Comments:** Readers will stay involved because it's fast paced and action packed. They will want more. Series: Never Land Adventures. Other Titles: *Peter and the Shadow Thieves*; *Escape from the Carnivale*; *Cave of the Dark Wind*.

Pictures of Hollis Woods – Patricia Giff

Abandoned at birth, Hollis is considered "troubled" by her former foster parents. When Hollis moves in with a retired art teacher, she uses pictures to tell the story of the family she almost had. **Comment:** This story will touch your heart! Similar Titles: *Ruby Holler*; *Great Gilly Hopkins*; *Snyder's Gib Rides Home*.

Running Out of Time [Indiana Setting] – Margaret Peterson Haddix

In the 1800s, thirteen-year-old Jessie must save her family by fleeing her village. Only after she leaves does Jessie discover that she is in a time warp. It's not the 19th century but the 20th century! **Comment:** Jessie realizes she must cope because others are depending on her.

Shiloh – Phyllis Naylor [Indiana author], Barry Moser

Marty is determined to save an abused dog. Marty learns life is not always fair. **Comment:** This story touches on the special relationship between a boy and dog. Series: *Shiloh*. Other Titles: *Saving Shiloh*; *Shiloh Season*.

Shoeless Joe & Me [Baseball Card series]– Dan Gutman

Stosh has the ability to hold a baseball card and travel back in time to meet baseball heroes of the past. **Comments:** Baseball fans will enjoy this time travel series. It is a nice way to introduce readers to historical fiction along with science fiction. Great for reluctant readers! Other Titles: *Honus & Me*; *Jackie & Me*; *Babe & Me*.

Stormbreaker [series] – Anthony Horowitz

At fourteen, Alex Rider did not want to be a spy, let alone a part of the Special Operations Division for the British government. After his uncle's death, Alex is given two weeks training and then sent out to save the world! **Comment:** Non-stop action and suspenseful chapters, make this an excellent choice. Series: Alex Rider. Other Titles: *Scorpius*; *Point Blank*; *Eagle Strike*; *Ark Angel*; *Skeleton Key*.

Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca travels with her grandparents to where her mother disappeared. **Comment:** You'll travel along with Salamanca on her journey of discovery, for her mother and for herself.

Non-Fiction

Best Ever Paper Airplanes – Norman Schmidt

The book contains 18 projects from easy to most complex. **Comment:** Clear diagrams, step-by-step instructions and glossary of terms are included to aid children with doing the projects. Other Title: *Instant Airplanes*.

DC Comics Encyclopedia – Phil Jimenez

Over 1000 characters from DC Comics 70 years of history are included. **Comment:** This book will provide hours of enjoyment for comic lovers. Other Title: *Comic Book Encyclopedia*.

Draw 50 Sharks, Whales, and Other Sea Creatures - Lee Ames

This work includes 11 sharks, 13 members of the whale family and a variety of sea creatures. **Comment:** These books are extremely popular with students who love to draw! Series: Draw 50... Other Titles: *Cats; Dogs; Caricatures; Horses; Vehicles*.

Emeril's There's a Chef in My Soup! - Emeril Lagasse, Charles Yuen

Here's a book for family cooking with sections on food safety, measurement, basic skills, terms and 76 recipes with step-by-step instructions. **Comments:** This is terrific for budding cooks. Unfortunately, no nutritional information is given.

Hiking Indiana – Phil Bloom

This book describes over 60 hikes consisting of a time frame from an afternoon to several day backpacking trips.

Comment: Information is included on ecology, geology, state history and useful hiking tips. Author is an award winning outdoor editor.

How to Draw Indiana's Sights and Symbols – Jenny Deinard, Jamie Grecco

Full of facts, history and step-by-step instructions, this book describes how to draw Indiana's sights and symbols.

Comments: Includes an index and Web site for Indiana. This will appeal to young artists. It is, also, a great way to introduce readers to the state. Series: A Kid's Guide to Drawing America.

Jazz – Walter Dean Myers, Christopher Myers (illus.)

Poetry and jazz are combined to provide historical influences and technical background. There are 15 selections complimented by contrasting colors. **Comment:** A must for jazz lovers or Myers' fans!

Pirates – John Matthews

Comments: Considered the ultimate pirate book, it's full of fact, fiction, lore, legends and the pirate's code of conduct. Text and illustrations are balanced nicely, and the book contains a 1758 map where treasure might still be buried. Other Titles: *Discovering Pirates; Return to Treasure Island*.

Race to Save the Lord God Bird – Phillip Hoose

This is a nonfiction account of the plight of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the individuals who tried to save it. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker was the first modern endangered species. **Comments:** Outstanding photos and reproductions enhance this highly-researched story. A must read for young biologists and conservationists.

Young Peoples' Choices That Make Great Gifts (Grades 9-12+)

Fiction

Anna and the King of Siam – Margaret Landon

This is a story of culture clash between a British governess and the king. **Comment:** This novel is based on the diaries of Anna Leonowens. It is the basis for musical, *The King and I*, by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Code Orange – Caroline Cooney

Mitty would rather do anything other than school work. At the last minute he discovers old medical books for his project. Inside one of the books he discovers an envelope containing two scabs. Now it's not only a race to get the project done but also to save his life! **Comments:** One of Cooney's finest and perfect for the middle grades. It may be too scary for grades 4 and 5. Boys will love this one! Other Titles: *Face on the Milk Carton; Burning Up; Driver's Ed.*

Code Talkers: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WW II – Joseph Bruchac

A grandfather shares his culture and the importance the Navajo language played in WW II. **Comment:** This information wasn't de-classified until 1969. Other Titles: *Navajo Code Talkers; Unsung Heroes and Warriors.*

Crystal Cave [The Arthurian Saga, Book 1] – Mary Stewart

Readers are introduced to the Arthurian legend. **Comments:** This work focuses on Merlin. Stewart weaves fantasy and legend nicely. Other Titles: *Hollow Hills; Last Enchantment and Wicked Days.*

Dune – Frank Herbert

Comments: This series is considered the world's best-selling science fiction series. Herbert stressed the future of humanity rather than technology. Series: Dune

Eyre Affair [literary detective novel] – Jasper Fforde

Meet literary detective Thursday Next, whose culture is based on literature. Villains can steal characters out of books.

Comment: It has satire, time travel and famous literary characters throughout the novel. Other Titles: *Last in a Good Book; Something Rotten: Well of Lost Plots.*

Follow the River: A Novel Based on the True Ordeal of Mary Ingles – James Alexander Thom

[Indiana author]

This is the story of Mary Ingles and her escape from Indian captivity. Mary follows the Ohio River over 1,000 miles to return to Virginia. **Comment:** This is a riveting story about a heroic escape on the frontier. It also has some scenes of graphic violence. Other Titles: *Panther in the Sky; From Sea to Shining Sea; Red Heart.*

A Girl named Zippy: Growing Up Small in Mooreland, Indiana – Haven Kimmel

[Indiana author]

Set in Mooreland, Indiana in the 1960s, this book introduces Zippy. **Comment:** Lighthearted fun with some somber moments. Other Titles: *She Got Up Off the Couch.*

Heart of a Champion [baseball] - Carl Deuker

This story explores the friendship that two boys develop and how baseball brings them together. Although baseball action is throughout the story, many young adult themes (divorce, peer pressure and death) are interwoven. **Comment:** Deuker relates well to young adults.

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe – Douglas Adams

Earth gets demolished for a hyperspace bypass one Thursday morning before breakfast. This is the story of Arthur and his journey through space. **Comment:** This title is considered a science fiction classic. Other Titles: *Restaurant at the End of the Universe; Life, the Universe and Everything; So Long and Thanks for all the Fish; Mostly Harmless.*

Missing Persons: The Chocolate Lover [Indiana setting] (series) – M.E. Rabb

Set in fictional Venice, Indiana, this story puts Sam and Sophie working with Professor Shattenberg to track down a women missing since 1947. **Comment:** Light reading. Series: Missing Persons. Other Titles: *Rose Queen; Venetian Policeman & Unsuspecting Gourmet.*

Truth About Forever – Sarah Dessen

Macy has controlled her sorrow over the loss of her father by being rigid and in control. Then a job at Wish Catering shows Macy that life is always changing and some times out of control and that's OK. **Comment:** Made the Teens Top 10 list. Other Title: *This Lullaby*.

Non-Fiction

365: No Repeats - A Year of Deliciously Different Dinners (a 30-minute Meal cookbook) – Rachael Ray

A year's worth of recipes with no repeats. **Comment:** Shows how you can learn some basic quick-and-easy recipes that with just a few changes can make future meals like new.

Book of Sudoku: The Hot New Puzzle Craze – Micheal Mepham

It's all the rage! This book explains the logic, reasoning and rules. **Comment:** Sudoku means "single number" in Japanese. Available in large print.

Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture – Ross King

This is the story of how one man changed architecture over the 28 years it took to build the dome in Florence, Italy.

Comment: Nonfiction Book of the Year. Other Title: *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*.

Conversations With Lincoln – Charles M. Segel, David Donald

This work focuses on the man Lincoln was and the decisions he made. The book stresses Lincoln's ability to hold the country together and the tragedy of the war itself. **Comment:** Author, David Donald, has won two Pulitzer Prizes. Highly recommended.

Copy This! – Paul Orfaleo

This is the story of how a hyperactive dyslexic, attention deficit boy started a small copy business called Kinkos in 1970 and turned it into a billion dollar business. **Comment:** This book gives special needs students and parents hope.

Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation – Lynn Truss

This is a humorous approach to common punctuation mistakes. **Comment:** A surprise bestseller, this helpful guide with short chapters is a fun read. Other Title: *Why Commas Really do Make a Difference*.

Got Tape? Roll Out the Fun with Duct Tape – Ellie Schiedermayer

More than 25 fun and silly projects are in this book. Step-by-step instructions and photos explain the projects.

Comment: Even reluctant readers like duct tape!

Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by 20th Century American Artists – Jan Greenberg

Forty-three poets were invited to choose a piece of modern art and write a poem. **Comments:** Bold, brilliant and stimulating! This is a must for poetry lovers and a great way to look at modern art.

How to Survive a Robot Uprising – Daniel Wilson

This book covers all possible doomsday scenarios facing endangered humans. **Comment:** Wilson holds a Ph.D. from Robotics Institute. Readers are given an introduction to contemporary robotics. It'll be a hit with all ages!

Physics of Superheroes – James Kakalios

The author combines his love of comics and physics. His approach provides an understanding of first-level college physics concepts. **Comments:** Delightful and hard to put down!

Excellent gift for the college bound student.

Rocket Boys [also called *October Sky*] – Homer Hickam

Homer and his friends try building their own rockets in 1957. It's assumed Hickam will enter the coal mine after graduation. He qualifies and attends the National Science Fair in Indianapolis, an event which changes his life forever.

Comment: Hickam went on to have a distinguished career with NASA.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend – Laura Hillenbrand

Here's a story about the times, the horse and the people. **Comment:** Even readers with no interest in horse racing will be hooked. In his day, Seabiscuit generated more press coverage than FDR, Hitler or Mussolini. This book is hard to put down.

Superhero Handbook – Michael Powell

This book will help readers develop their superhero potential! **Comment:** Fun and enjoyable, this parody will make the reader smile.

Team of Rivals: Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln – Doris Goodwin

This work explores Lincoln's ability to manage opponents, hostile congressmen and incompetent generals. **Comment:** Consists of multiple biographies on key individuals of the time period and highlights Lincoln's transformation from frontier lawyer to wartime leader.

Toon Art: the Graphic Art of Digital Cartooning – Steven Withrow

For anyone interested in web-based cartoons, comics or animation. Cartooning history, comments and suggestions from leading digital cartoonists are included. **Comment:** It's filled with valuable tips. A must read for cartooning artists!

Working Fire: the Making of an Accidental Fireman – Zac Unger

A graduate from an Ivy League school, Unger applies and is accepted into the firemen training academy. **Comment:** He takes readers to his first fire, shares his fears, and provides insight into a dangerous profession.