The 2010 Holiday Buying Guide from Reading Rockets

Books as Gifts

What better gift to give than one that can be shared again and again? Books are just that kind of gift. They create memories, too, when read by and with children. This year’s list was carefully crafted with just one idea in mind — to find books so engaging that the TV is happily turned off and the iPod and electronic games are put away. Books open new windows to the world. Happy holidays from Reading Rockets!

Books for children 8-9 years old

Books to read on their own
- Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring by Jan Greenberg & Sandra Jordan
- A Book About Color by Mark Gonyea
- Calvin Coconut: Zoo Breath by Graham Salisbury
- Clementine, Friend of the Week by Sara Pennypacker
- The Fantastic 5 & 10 Cent Store: A Rebus Adventure by J. Patrick Lewis
- Little House on the Prairie: 75th Anniversary Edition by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Lizards by Nic Bishop
- 100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Days by Bruce Goldstone
- Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Meghan McCarthy
- Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow retold by Robert San Souci

Books to read together
- Arlington: The Story of Our Nation’s Cemetery by Chris Demarest
- Clever Jack Takes the Cake by Candace Fleming
- The Fantastic Owen Jester by Barbara O’Connor
- In the Wild by David Elliott
- Mirror by Jeannie Baker
- Ole! Flamenco by George Ancona
- Nancy and Plum by Betty MacDonald
- The Secret Cave: Discovering Lascaux by Emily Arnold McCully
- Soar, Elinor! by Tami Lewis Brown
- There’s a Princess in the Palace: Five Classic Tales retold by Zoe Alley