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. *Happy holidays from Reading Rockets!*

### Books for children 8-9 years old

#### Books to read on their own
- *Around the World: Three Remarkable Journeys* by Matt Phelan
- *The Bippolo Seed & Other Lost Stories* by Dr. Seuss
- *Butterflies* by Seymour Simon
- *Clementine and the Family Meeting* by Sara Pennypacker
- *Dear Hot Dog* by Mordicai Gerstein
- *Ellray Jakes is NOT a Chicken!* by Sally Warner
- *Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems* by Kristine O’Connell George
- *Ivy & Bean: No News is Good News* by Annie Barrows
- *Melonhead & the Undercover Operation* by Katy Kelly
- *Mystery Math: A First Book of Algebra* by David Adler

#### Books to read together
- *E-mergency!* by Tom Lichtenheld & Ezra Fields-Meyer
- *Little Kitchen: 40 Delicious and Simple Things that Children Can Really Make* by Sabrina Parrini
- *Mathemagic! Number Tricks* by Lynda Cogan
- *A Nation’s Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis* by Matt de la Peña
- *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Michael Morpurgo
- *Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes & Monsters* by Donna Jo Napoli
- *What’s the Big Idea? Amazing Science Questions for Curious Kids* by Vicki Cobb
- *Weird & Wacky Inventions* by Jim Murphy
- *Wild Women of the Wild West* by Jonah Winter