The 2011 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. Happy holidays from Reading Rockets!

For children up to 4 years old

- Animal Baths by Bob Barner
- Color-by-Penguins by Ed Heck
- Counting in the Garden by Emily Hruby
- The Construction Crew by Lynn Meltzer
- Farmyard Beat by Lindsey Craig
- Feeding Friendsies by Suzanne Bloom
- Gossi/Gansi by Olivia Dunrea
- Grandma Calls Me Gigglepie by J.D. Lester
- Have You Seen Duck? by Janet Holmes & Jonathan Bentley
- I Am a Tyrannosaurus by Anna Grossnickle Hines
- Let’s Look at Dinosaurs by Frances Barry
- Love Waves by Rosemary Wells
- Moomin’s Little Book of Words and Moomin’s Little Book of Numbers by Tove Jansson
- Reaching by Judy Ann Sadler
- What Puppies Do Best by Laura Numeroff
- Who Do I See? by Salina Yoon

For children 4–5 years old

- A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka
- The Busy Beaver by Nicholas Oldland
- Cars Galore by Peter Stein
- chirchir is singing by Kelly Cunnane
- Colores de la Vida by Cynthia Weill
- Cows to the Rescue by John Himmelman
- Dinosaur Dig! by Penny Dale
- Happy Pig Day! by Mo Willems
- How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? The Story of Food by Chris Butterworth
- Jack and the Beanstalk by Nina Crews
- Kimonos by Annalore Parot
- A Little Bitty Man and Other Poems for the Very Young by Halfdan Rasmussen
- Monkey: A Trickster from India by Gerald McDermott
- Motion, Magnets and More by Adrienne Mason
- One Foot Two Feet: An Exceptional Counting Book by Peter Maloney & Felicia Zekauskas
- Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner
- Press Here by Hervé Tullet
- Sea of Dreams by Dennis Nolan
- Seasons by Anne Crausaz
- The Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs and The Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone
- Time for a Bath by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page
- Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
- Where’s Walrus? by Stephen Savage
- Who Has These Feet? by Laura Hulbert

See the next page for books for kids 6–7 years old and 8–9 years old.
**For children 6–7 years old**

- *About Hummingbirds: A Guide for Children* by Cathryn Sill
- *Amphibians: True or False* by Melvin Berger & Gilda
- *The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man* by Michael Carbon
- *Dodsworth in Rome* by Tim Egans
- *Fly Guy vs. the Flyswatter!* by Tedd Arnold
- *Friendship: True Stories of Extraordinary Animal Friendships* by Catherine Thimmesh
- *The Guardian Team: On the Job with Rena & Roo* by Cat Urbigkit
- *Hocus Pocus* by Sylvie Desrosiers & Remy Simard
- *Squish: Super Amoeba* by Jennifer Holm & Matthew Holm
- *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature* by Joyce Sidman

**To read with children 6–7 years old**

- *The Book with a Hole* by Hervé Tullet
- *Coral Reefs* by Jason Chin
- *Doggy Whys* by Lila Prap
- *Duke Ellington’s Nutcracker Suite* by Anna Harwell Celenza
- *First Garden and How It Grew* by Robbin Gourley
- *The Hound Dog’s Haiku & Other Poems for Dog Lovers* by Michael Rosen
- *Good-bye, Havana! Hola, New York!* by Edie Colon
- *I Am Tama, Lucky Cat: A Japanese Legend* by Wendy Henrichs
- *Mouse & Lion* retold by Rand Burkert
- *Polka Dot Penguin Pottery* by Lenore Look
- *A Zeal of Zebras: An Alphabet of Collective Nouns* by Chronicle Books

**For children 8–9 years old**

- *Around the World: Three Remarkable Journeys* by Matt Phelan
- *The Bippolo Seed & Other Lost Stories* by Dr. Seuss
- *Butterflies* by Seymour Simon
- *Clementine, Friend of the Week* by Sara Pennypacker
- *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

**To read with children 8–9 years old**

- *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

For more book lists and video interviews with renowned children’s book authors and illustrators, visit our website: www.readingrockets.org