

Books as Gifts

The 2009 Holiday Buying Guide from Reading Rockets

Good books last. They are truly the gift that is remembered long after the holiday or celebration is over. In fact, a book that connects with a young reader will grow with them as it is shared countless times. These books were chosen with just one criterion in mind — good literature that's so engaging that your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or student will gladly turn off the TV and put away the Gameboy. Give books as gifts and watch kids read.

Happy holidays from Reading Rockets!

For children up to 4 years old

All of Baby Nose to Toes by Victoria Adler

Birds by Kevin Henkes

Dog and Bear: Three to Get Ready by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Dog Wants to Play by Christine McDonnell

Have You Ever Tickled a Tiger? by Betsy Snyder

How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You? by Jane Yolen

The Little Dump Truck by Margery Cuyler

Hello Baby! by Mem Fox

Maisy's Animals/Los Animales de Maisy by Lucy Cousins

My Little Polar Bear by Claudia Rueda

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe by Jane Cabrera

Peek-a-Boo What? published by Begin Smart

Pouch! by David Ezra Stein

Truckery Rhymes by Jon Scieszka

Wow! Said the Owl by Tim Hopgood

For children 4–5 years old

All of Me! A Book of Thanks by Molly Bang

Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day/Celebremos El dia de los Ninos/El dia de los libros by Pat Mora

Every Second Something Happens: Poems for the Mind & Senses selected by Christine San Jose

Farley Follows His Nose by Lynn Johnston & Beth Cruikshank

Grizzly Dad by Joanna Harrison

Here Comes Jack Frost by Kazuno Kohara

How Do You Wokka-Wokka? by Elizabeth Bluemle

The King's Taster by Kenneth Oppel

The Lion & the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

Little Beauty by Anthony Browne

Little Mouse Gets Ready by Jeff Smith

Miranda's Beach Day by Holly Keller

The Mitten by Jan Brett

Night Lights by Susan Gal

Ocean's Child by Christine Ford & Trish Holland

Otis by Loren Long

Polo and the Dragon by Regis Faller

Shape by Shape by Suse MacDonald

The Sleepy Little Alphabet: A Bedtime Story from Alphabet Town by Judy Sierra

The Super Hungry Dinosaur by Martin Waddell

The Terrible Plop by Ursula Dubosarsky

This Is the Firefighter by Laura Godwin

Who Goes There? by Jennifer Ericsson



See the next page for books for kids 6–7 years old and 8–9 years old

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For children 6–7 years old

Acorns Everywhere! by Kevin Sherry
Creature ABC by Andrew Zuckerman
Dinosaur Hunt by David Catrow
Grumpy Grandpa by Heater Henson
I Spy Fly Guy! by Tedd Arnold
Nate the Great and the Hungry Book Club
by Marjorie & Mitchell Sharmat
Panda Kindergarten by Joanne Ryder
Ready, Set, Skip! by Jane O'Connor
Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas
There's No Place Like Space: All About our Solar System by Tish Rabe
Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer by Carol Brendler

To read with children 6–7 years old

Billy Twitters and his Blue Whale Problem by Mac Barnett
A Book by Mordicai Gerstein
A Chair for Always by Vera Williams
Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems by Douglas Florian
Imogene's Last Stand by Candace Fleming
Julie Andrews' Collection of Poems, Songs, & Lullabies
selected by Julie Andrews & Emma Walton Hamilton
The Longest Night by Marion Dane Bauer
Snow White: A Three-Dimensional Fairytale Theater
by Jane Ray
Spot the Plot: A Riddle Book of Book Riddles
by J. Patrick Lewis
Sunday Chutney by Aaron Blabey
Superhero School by Aaron Reynolds
Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends by Carol Buckley
When I Wore My Sailor Suit by Uri Shulevitz

For children 8–9 years old

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, & Other Natural Disasters by Lenore Look
Bad News for Outlaws by Vauda Micheau
The Daring Miss Quimby by Susanne George Whitaker
Friend or Fiend? With the Pain & the Great One
by Judy Blume
How Oliver Olson Changed the World by Claudia Mills
Moonshot by Brian Floca
Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine and a Miracle by Major Brian Dennis
Rich: A Dyamonde Daniel Book by Nikki Grimes
Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again by Juliana, Isabella, and Craig Hatkoff
You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax? by Jonah Winter

To read with children 8–9 years old

Crow Call by Lois Lowry
Django: World's Greatest Jazz Guitarist
by Bonnie Christensen
Falling Down the Page: A Book of List Poems
edited by Georgia Heard
Homework by Arthur Yorinks
Marsupials by Nic Bishop
Mission to the Moon by Alan Dyer
Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace by James Proimos
Sky Magic selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins
Strawberry Hill by Mary Ann Hoberman
Testing the Ice by Sharon Robinson
The Wonderful O by James Thurber

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