

Great Books to Give as Gifts – 2011



The Youngest Ones

A Ball for Daisy by Christopher Raschka, 9780375958618

A wordless picture book showing the fun a dog has with her ball, and what happens when it is lost.

Don't Want to Go! by Shirley Hughes 9780763650919

Lily's mother is sick and her father must go to work, but she does not want to stay with a babysitter, even if it means playing with cute baby Sam, sweet little dog Ringo, and fun big brother Jack.

Rrralph by Lois Ehlert 9781442413054

The narrator describes discovering how Ralph the dog can talk, appropriately saying words such as "roof," "rough," "bark," and "wolf."

Soy una hermana mayor / I'm a Big Sister and **Soy un hermano mayor / I'm a Big Brother** by Joanna Cole, illus. By Rosalinda Kightley

A sister enumerates the joys of welcoming a new baby to the family and the advantages of already being "big."

A child observes all the things that his new baby brother does and gives all the reasons why he loves being a big brother.

April and Esme, Tooth Fairies by Bob Graham 9780763646837

On their first assignment, two young tooth fairy sisters journey by night into the huge world of humans to collect Daniel Dangerfield's tooth and fly it safely home.

No by Claudia Rueda, 9780888999917

When a mother bear tries to convince her little bear to go to sleep for the winter, little bear would rather stay awake and play, until a storm makes him reconsider.

The Natural World

Smithsonian Natural History: The Ultimate Visual Guide to Everything on Earth edited by by Becky Alexander, Ann Baggaley, Kim Dennis-Bryan, Ferdie McDonald, Elizabeth Munsey 9780756667528

With oversight from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, this detailed visual guide examines thousands of species and specimens of animals, plants and minerals that make Earth unique.

Time to Eat by Steve Jenkins, Robin Page, illus. by Steve Jenkins

Provides an introduction to what animals eat and how they collect, store, and digest their food.

Can We Save the Tiger? by Martin Jenkins, illus. by Vicky White 9780763649098

Highlights the ways human behavior can either threaten or conserve the amazing animals that share our planet.

You Are the Earth: Know Your World So You Can Help Make It Better by David Suzuki and Kathy Vanderlinden, illus. by Wallace Edwards 9781553654766

Explores our natural connection to the earth and its four elements, air, water, soil, and fire, underlining the importance of biodiversity and respect for the environment.



Poetry

The Carnival of the Animals by Jack Prelutsky, illus. by Mary GrandPre 9780375964589

Combines the talents of America's first Children's Poet Laureate and the illustrator of the Harry Potter books in a volume of rollicking original verses set to Saint-Saëns' classical composition that is complemented by a CD recording of the music and Prelutsky's readings.

Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku by Lee Wardlaw, illus. by Eugene Yelchin 9780805089950

A cat arrives at a shelter, arranges to go home with a good family, and settles in with them, all the while letting them know who is boss and, finally, sharing his real name.

Inspiring People and Animals

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story by Linda Sue Park 9780547251271

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven.

Meet the Dogs of Bedlam Farm by Jon Katz, 9780805092196

The author introduces the 4 dogs that live on his farm in New York, each of whom has his or her own job to do every day.



Fun with Fiction

Bink and Gollie by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee, illus. by Tony Fucile 9780763632663

Two roller-skating best friends--one tiny, one tall--share three comical adventures involving outrageously bright socks, an impromptu trek to the Andes, and a most unlikely marvelous companion.

Guys Read: Funny Business edited by Jon Scieszka 9780606149921

A collection of humorous stories featuring a teenaged mummy, a homicidal turkey, and the world's largest pool of chocolate milk. (fourth –sixth grade)

Mr. Stink by David Walliams, illus. by Quentin Blake 9781595143327

After Chloe gets to know Mr. Stink, she tries to help him out by letting him live in the garden shed, but when her father also tries to hide a secret, the stage is set for an epic family confrontation. (fourth-sixth grade)

The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic by Jennifer Trafton, illus. by Brett Helquist 9780803733756

Ten-year-old Persimmony Smudge longs for heroic adventures, and one day she overhears a secret that thrusts her into the middle of a dangerous mission that could destroy her island. (fourth-sixth grade)

Milo: Sticky Notes and Brain Freeze, by Alan Silberberg, 9781416994305

Ever since his mother died, nothing has gone right for 13-year-old geek Milo Cruikshank, and his family and home just aren't the same, but Milo handles his frustrations with sincerity, humor and heart.

Teens

Americapedia: Taking the Dumb Out of Freedom by Jodi Lynn Anderson, Daniel Ehrenhaft and Andisheh Nourae, 9780802797933

Aimed at teens who want to know more about the day-to-day workings of the U.S. government, this unique blend of humor and information is a cross between a textbook and a satire.

Half Brother by Kenneth Oppel, 9780545229258

In 1973, as part of an experiment to determine whether chimpanzees can acquire advanced language skills, a renowned behavioral psychologist brings home a baby chimp named Zan and asks his son to treat Zan like a little brother.



Grown-ups on Your List

The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us by Tanya Lee Stone, 9780670011872

Examines how the Barbie doll became the icon that she is and the impact she has had on our culture through passionate anecdotes and memories from a range of girls and women.

The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody by Shriill Travesty, illus. by Lucy Ruth Cummins 9781442407633

A parody in the style of "The Giving Tree" features a disgruntled tree that is fed up with a boy who cuts off her branches to build a house which he subsequently burns down for the insurance money.

You Are Not So Smart: Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook, Why Your Memory Is Mostly Fiction, and 46 Other Ways You're Deluding Yourself by David McRaney, 9781592406593

The award-winning creator of the blog by the same name presents a lighthearted tour of the self-deluding belief systems that cause people to feel undue confidence in their intelligence, explaining how delusions are part of a complex psychological defense system while identifying dozens of common misconceptions in such areas as caffeine withdrawal, hindsight and brand loyalty.

Most of the annotations are from Baker and Taylor's Title Source III

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