

**Good Books to Give as Gifts**  
**Prepared by Vicki Wood**  
**Youth Services Supervisor / Lincoln City libraries**  
**November 2013**

**Look Up!: Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard**

**by Cate, Annette Leblanc**

A conversational, lighthearted introduction to birdwatching encourages kids to get outdoors with a sketchbook and explains how to identify local varieties by referencing cartoon illustrations that whimsically profile bird characteristics.

**Frog Song**

**by Guiberson, Brenda Z. / Spirin, Gennadi (Illustrator)**

Since the time of the dinosaurs, frogs have added their burps and bellows to the music of the earth. Frogs are astonishing in their variety and crucial to ecosystems. Onomatopoeic text and stunning illustrations introduce young readers to these fascinating and important creatures, from Chile to Nepal to Australia.

**On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein**

**by Berne, Jennifer / Radunsky, Vladimir (Illustrator)**

Follows the life of the famous physicist, from his early ideas to his groundbreaking theories.

**Shimmer & Splash: The Sparkling World of Sea Life**

**by Arnosky, Jim**

Presents an illustrated introduction to a wide variety of marine species, from starfish and coral reefs to sharks and jellyfish, in a volume complemented by seven gatefold spreads.

**Eruption!: The Science of Saving Lives**

**by Rusch, Elizabeth / Uhlman, Tom (Illustrator)**

An account of the work of volcanologists Andy Lockhart, John Pallister, and their team describes their life-risking efforts to investigate dangerous volcanoes that pose threats to more than one billion people worldwide.

**The Mystery of Darwin's Frog: A True Story of Scientific Discovery**

**by Crump, Marty / Jenkins, Steve (Illustrator) / Rodriguez, Edel (Illustrator)**

Explores the scientific relevance of an exotic frog discovered by Charles Darwin in 1834, describing how researchers came to the surprising realization that the males of the species care for their developing young.

**Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle**

**by Raschka, Christopher**

A father teaches his daughter all about bicycle riding, from selecting the right bike to trying again after a fall.

### Picture a Tree

by Reid, Barbara

Featuring intricate signature clay artwork by the creator of The Subway Mouse, a celebration of the beauty and importance of trees invites children to observe trees from numerous angles and consider how they provide shade, shelter and more.

### Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes

by Thong, Roseanne Greenfield / Parra, John (Illustrator)

A little girl discovers things that are round, square, and rectangular in her Hispanic American neighborhood.

### The Dark

by Snicket, Lemony / Klassen, Jon (Illustrator)

Laszlo is afraid of the dark which lives in the same big, creaky house as him, until one night the dark pays him a visit.

### Can't Scare Me!

by Bryan, Ashley

A lavishly depicted cautionary tale from the French Antilles features a fearless little boy who disregards his grandmother's warnings about the many-headed monsters that subject the heedless boy to their dreadful singing when he encounters them one day.

### The Matchbox Diary

by Fleischman, Paul / Ibatoulline, Bagram (Illustrator)

Follows a girl's perusal of her great-grandfather's collection of matchboxes and small curios that document his poignant immigration journey from Italy to a new country.

### Benjamin Bear in Bright Ideas!

by Coudray, Philippe

Benjamin Bear, accompanied by his faithful rabbit friend, continues to share his observations and questions about the world around him.

### Odd Duck

by Castellucci, Cecil / Varon, Sara (Illustrator)

Believing herself to be a normal duck despite her penchant for swimming with a teacup balanced on her head and her preference for staying north in the winter when all the other ducks have flown south, Theodora resolves to set a good example for her unlikely friend, Chad, whom Theodora believes has eccentric habits.

### Lulu and the Dog from the Sea

by McKay, Hilary / Lamont, Priscilla (Illustrator)

In Book Two of the highly-acclaimed new series from Hilary McKay and Priscilla Lamont, 7-year-old Lulu and her cousin think their vacation house is the most perfect place ever until they find a trouble-prone, stray dog living on the beach. Everyone thinks the dog is a nuisance, but Lulu is sure he just needs a friend.

### Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures

by DiCamillo, Kate / Campbell, K. G. (Illustrator)

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

### Doll Bones

by Black, Holly / Wheeler, Eliza (Illustrator)

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

### The Odyssey

by Cross, Gillian (RTL) / Packer, Neil (Illustrator)

Traces Odysseus' ten-year voyage home after the Trojan War, a journey marked by a man-eating Cyclops, deadly Sirens, the fury of the sea-god Poseidon, and Odysseus' faithful wife's efforts to rebuff greedy suitors.

### Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened

by Brosh, Allie

Touching, absurd, and darkly comic, Allie Brosh's highly anticipated book *Hyperbole and a Half* showcases her unique voice, leaping wit, and her ability to capture complex emotions with deceptively simple illustrations.

### She Matters: A Life in Friendships

by Sonnenberg, Susanna

Presents an illuminating assessment of the women who have profoundly shaped the author's life in a candid series of portraits that explores the powerful bonds and complex nuances that mark female friendships.

### The Life & Poetry of Ted Kooser

by Stillwell, Mary K.

Like a flash of lightning it came to him, the unathletic high school student Ted Kooser saw a future as a famous poet that promised everything: glory, immortality, a bohemian lifestyle (no more doing dishes, no more cleaning his room), and, particularly important to the lonely teenager, girls! Unlike most kids with a sudden ambition, Kooser, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and thirteenth poet laureate of the United States, made good on his dream.

### Why Does the World Exist?: An Existential Detective Story

by Holt, Jim

Expands the search for the origins of the universe beyond God and the Big Bang theory, exploring more bizarre possibilities inspired by physicists, theologians, mathematicians, and even novelists.

### [A Guide to the Ghosts of Lincoln](#)

by **Boye, Alan**

This expanded, updated, and revised edition of *A Guide to the Ghosts of Lincoln* takes you on a tour of the known and the obscure sites in Lincoln, Nebraska, where on a dark and silent evening you might feel a slight chill in the air, hear the faint calling of a lost soul, or see the ghostly shape of a spirit fade into blackness.

### [This Will Make You Smarter: New Scientific Concepts to Improve Your Thinking](#)

by **Brockman, John (EDT) / Brooks, David (FRW)**

Presents short essays from such diverse intellectuals as Steven Pinker, Nassim Nicholas Taleb, and Brian Eno about possible scientific concepts that can be used to improve cognition and expand the human outlook for change.

Also by Brockman, [Thinking : The New Science of Decision-Making, Problem-Solving, and Prediction](#)  
[This Explains Everything : Deep, Beautiful, and Elegant Theories of How the World Works](#)

### [The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves in Our Capsized Culture](#)

by **Pipher, Mary**

Offers guidance for transforming fears about environmental issues into useful forces in individual lives, advocating the taking of small, constructive steps toward handling problems that seem beyond our control, and maintaining hope.

### [Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation](#)

by **Pollan, Michael**

Recounts the story of the author's culinary education and the roles of the four classical elements of fire, water, air, and earth in transforming natural ingredients into delicious meals and drinks.

### [Far from the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity](#)

by **Solomon, Andrew**

Explores the consequences of extreme personal differences between parents and children, describing his own experiences as a gay child of straight parents while evaluating the circumstances of people affected by physical, developmental, or cultural factors that divide families.

### [Eminent Hipsters](#)

by **Fagen, Donald**

Published to coincide with the summer 2013 Steely Dan tour, a lighthearted and revelatory work of memoir and criticism by the band's co-founder explores the hipster cultural figures that shaped his youth in 1960s suburban New Jersey, his progressive education at Bard College and the ups and downs of his recent cross-country tour with Boz Scaggs and Michael McDonald.