

# Great Youth Books to Give as Gifts 2008

## Babies and Toddlers

[Black? White! Day? Night!: A Book of Opposites](#) by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, ISBN 1596431857

Readers can see a word and its meaning expressed through a picture, then lift the flap to see the opposite word and its meaning.

[The Napping House](#) by Audrey Wood, illus. by Don Wood (Board Book) ISBN 9780152056209

This oversized board book of the classic bedtime tale is perfect for one-on-one sharing with the little sleepyhead in your life.

[Baby Face: A Book of Love for Baby](#) by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Diane Goode, ISBN 1416949097

Six little poems describe how love flows between parent and child in the course of everyday activities such as bathing, eating, strolling, and, of course, sleeping.

## Beginning to Read

[Annie and Snowball and the Dress-Up Birthday](#) by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Suec Stevenson, ISBN 1416909389

Annie and her pet rabbit Snowball move next door to her cousin Henry from the beloved first reader series *Henry and Mudge* in this first book in a new series of adventures.

[Ivy and Bean](#) by Annie Barrows (**series**)

For youngsters just jumping into chapter books, the Ivy and Bean series features neighbor girls who, despite their obvious differences, become best friends.

[Shredderman](#) by Wendelin Van Draanen (**series**)

Second through fourth grade boys will adore these stories of fifth-grade boy and unlikely superhero, Nolan, and his secret identity as Shredderman!

## Learning and Doing

[How to Write Your Life Story](#) by Ralph Fletcher, ISBN 97800605007701

Fletcher provides elementary-aged budding authors encouragement, starting points and examples to get them started writing autobiographically.

[What the World Eats](#) by Peter Menzel, ISBN 1582462461

This fascinating photographic collection explores what the world eats through portraits of families from different countries surrounded by a week's worth of food, along with recipes and grocery lists with prices.

[Ken Libbrecht's Field Guide to Snowflakes](#) by Kenneth George Libbrecht, ISBN 9780760326459

Libbrecht has captured these winter wonders in all of their glory. Readers learn about snowflake structure, how best to capture the flakes for observation and what the patterns tell us about the weather.

## **Fun Stuff**

[A Princess, a Pirate and One Wild Brother](#) by Cornelia Funke, illus. by Kerstin Meyer, ISBN 9780545042413

Three of Funke's humorous picture books featuring spunky girls, pirates and princesses and a brave boy who sometimes needs the protection of his big sister all rolled into one wonderful package.

[Too Many Toys](#) by David Shannon, ISBN 9780439490290

Spencer's parents are exasperated with his stupendous collection of toys and negotiate a way for him to part with some of his treasures- but not without a struggle.

[The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales](#), retold by Joseph and James Bruchac, illus. by Stefano Vitale, ISBN 978140273263

A beautifully illustrated collection of folktales, creation myths and animal fables from many Native American tribes.

[Do Not Open](#) by John Farndon, ISBN 9780756632052

A fascinating compendium of "weird and wonderful stuff" including unexplained phenomena, strange coincidences, and freaky facts that surely will engross any elementary-age kid. Elaborately illustrated by the folks who brought us the beautiful Eyewitness series of books.

## **Tweens and Teens**

[Smart Girl's Guides](#), various authors by The American Girl Library

Attractively packaged and gentle in tone, the books offer common-sense advice to young girls on topics vital to this age group: boys, friendship troubles, staying healthy and thinking about college.

[Lay-Ups and Long Shots](#), various authors, ISBN9781581960785

A diverse set of well-known young adult authors offer these nine short sports stories, each with a unique take on the joys and heartbreak of living the sporting life.

[\*\*The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body\*\*](#) by David Macaulay, ISBN 9780618

Macaulay has created a very visual, humorous and easily understandable guide to the human body using his trademark detailed drawings and clear prose.

## **The Natural World**

[\*\*Sisters and Brothers: Sibling Relationships In the Animal World\*\*](#) by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, ISBN 0618375961

Investigates sibling relationships in the animal kingdom, providing such examples as falcons that play-hunt together in the sky and hyena cubs that fight to the death.

[\*\*Luck: The Story of a Sandhill Crane\*\*](#) by Jean Craighead George, paintings by Wendell Minor, ISBN 006008202X

Minor beautifully captures these birds Nebraskans have come to know and love in this story of a young sandhill crane who must learn to memorize landmarks to make it safely home from northern Canada to the Platte River.

## **Poetry**

[\*\*Dogku\*\*](#) by Andrew Clements, ISBN 068985823X

A series of haiku poems about a loveable dog.

[\*\*Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat\*\*](#) by Nikki Giovanni, illus. by Alicia Vergel de Dios and Damian Ward, ISBN 9781402210488

Classic African American poets share the stage with contemporary hip-hop artists in this lovely book and cd set featuring a wide variety of verse and rhythms: from the fields, the jazz and blues stage and city streets.

## **Pleasant Advice**

[\*\*Big Words for Little People\*\*](#) by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell, ISBN 9780061127601

Curtis and Cornell have created an all-around winner again in this humorous look at some big words like, privacy, consequence and inappropriate and what they mean if you are a little kid.

[\*\*Please Is a Good Word To Say\*\*](#) by Barbara Joosse, ISBN 0399242171

Harriet gives examples of polite words and expressions to use in various social situations to make them more pleasant.

[\*\*Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners\*\*](#) by Laurie Keller, ISBN 0805079963

Mr. Rabbit wonders if he will be able to get along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the golden rule.

## Holidays

**[I Have a Little Dreidel](#)** by Maxie Baum, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, ISBN 0439649978

Each double page spread features a short verse highlighting a special aspect of the Hanukkah celebration with a verse from the dreidel song repeated on the facing page. Paschkis' delightful folk art paintings perfectly complement the homey, fun feel of this book. Includes a recipe for potato latkes and instructions for playing the dreidel game.

**[Christmas Farm](#)** by Mary Lynn Ray, illustrated by Barry Root, ISBN 9780152162900

Wilma and her young neighbor Parker plant sixty-two dozen balsam trees and tend to them over the years as they grow, providing habitat for wildlife, eventually providing neighboring families lovely trees for Christmas.

**[Celebrate Kwanzaa](#)** by Linda Jacobs Altman, ISBN 9780766028623

This book places Kwanzaa in an historical context, both as a traditional "harvest festival" and as an outgrowth of the Civil Rights Movement.

**[Gingerbread Friends](#)** by Jan Brett, ISBN 978039925161

Scrumptious Jan Brett illustrations lend a holiday flair to this story of the little cookie who refuses to be eaten. Young listeners will love pouring over the rich illustrations, especially the final foldout page that brings the story to a satisfying, happy ending.

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

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Youth Services Supervisor

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