

Great Books to Give as Gifts 2009

The Youngest Ones

[Gallop](#)

by Rufus Butler Seder ISBN 9780761147633

Rhyming text asks if the reader can move like a variety of animals, in a book where striped acetate overlays on board pages give illustrations the illusion of movement.

[A Book of Sleep](#)

by Il Sung Na ISBN 0375962239

With a spare, soothing text and beautifully rich and textured illustrations of a starry night, this is the perfect "book of sleep."

[Jeremy Draws a Monster](#)

by Peter McCarty ISBN 0805069348

Jeremy draws a monster . . . but he doesn't expect it to be bored and hungry--and bossy.

[Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales](#)

by Lucy Cousins ISBN 0763644749

Eight classic stories take on new energy as Lucy Cousins ramps up her artwork.

[Machines Go to Work](#)

by William Low ISBN 0805087591

Illustrations and text on lift-the-flap pages present vehicles and other useful machines at work, including a back-hoe, a fire truck, a tug boat, a railroad crossing sign and a container ship.

[The Lion and the Mouse](#)

by Jerry Pinkney ISBN 9780316013567

In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle.

The Natural World

[Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember](#)

by Steve Jenkins ISBN 061896620X

Discover how dangerous an animal can be when it feels threatened or trapped.

What Bluebirds Do

by Pamela F. Kirby ISBN 9781590786147

Follow this story of America's beloved backyard bird, told in stunning full-color photographs and simple text, as the chicks grow, take flight, and finally wear the same beautiful colors as their parents.

Butterflies and Moths

by Nic Bishop ISBN 9780439877572

Introduces butterflies and moths, discussing their habitats, physical characteristics, predators, defense mechanisms, life cycles and metamorphosis, and includes close-up photographs of an array of diverse specimens of each.

Poetry

Gracias/Thanks

by Pat Mora, illustrated by John Parra ISBN 1600602584

In a series of poetic sentences, a young boy (biracial Mexican/Caucasian) tells about some of the everyday things for which he is thankful.

Dinothesaurus

by Douglas Florian ISBN 9781416979784

An illustrated collection of poems and collages about dinosaurs.

Button Up!: Wrinkled Rhymes

by Alice Schertle ISBN 0152050507

From undies to jammies to a much-loved hand-me-down sweatshirt, the talking clothes in these poems know just who they are and who's wearing them.

Looking Like Me

by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers ISBN 9781606840412

Jeremy sets out to discover all of the different "people" that make him who he is, including brother, son, writer, and runner.

Holiday Standouts

Stick Man

by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler ISBN 0545157617

Stick Man ends up far away from his family tree when he is fetched by a dog, thrown by a child, used as a snowman's arm, and even put on a fire, but finally Santa Claus steps in to make sure that Stick Man and his family have a joyous Christmas.

[Hanukkah Haiku](#)

by Harriet Ziefert, paintings by Karla Gudfeon ISBN 9781934706336

There's one haiku for each night and stepped pages add one candle to the menorah every time the page is turned.

[A Season of Gifts](#)

by Richard Peck ISBN 0803730829

Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on twelve-year-old Bob Barnhart and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel.

[The Night Before Christmas](#)

retold and illustrated by Rachel Isadora ISBN 9780399254086

Presents an illustrated version of the well-known poem about an important Christmas visitor that portrays Santa visiting an African family.

[The Nutcracker](#)

by John Cech, illustrated by Eric Puybaret ISBN 1402755627

Cech bases his version on E.T.A. Hoffman's original, which features not only the story familiar to all ballet lovers, but other wondrous adventures—including the tale of Princess Pirlipat and an explanation of the origins of the Nutcracker himself.

Family Read Alouds

[Mama Says: A Book of Love for Mothers and Sons](#)

by Rob D. Walker, illustrated by Diane Dillon ISBN 9780439932080

In this lavishly illustrated picture book, women from all corners of the earth impart special motherly wisdom to their sons.

[The Dunderheads](#)

by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by David Roberts ISBN 0763624985

When Miss Breakbone confiscates Junkyard's crucial find, Wheels, Pencil, Spider and the rest of the Dunderheads plot to teach her a lesson.

[Everything for a Dog](#)

by Ann M. Martin ISBN 0312386516

In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and Lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own.

The Magician's Elephant

by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Yoko Tanaka ISBN 9780763644109

When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

by Jacqueline Kelly ISBN 0805088415

In central Texas, in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to important discovery.

Grown-Ups on Your List

Seeking Peace: Chronicles of the Worst Buddhist in the World

by Mary Pipher ISBN 1594488614

Mary Pipher tells her own remarkable story and in the process reveals the truth about people's search for happiness and love.

Alex & Me

by Irene M. Pepperberg ISBN 9780061672477

The story of Alex, a famous African Grey parrot, documents his thirty-year relationship with his trainer and the ways in which his life has changed scientific understanding about language and thought.

A Sandhills Ballad

by Ladette Randolph ISBN 9780826346858

Twenty-one year old Mary Rasmussen discovers that her life has unraveled when she wakes after being in a coma for six weeks.

Stitches: A Memoir

by David Small ISBN 9780393068573

The author recounts in graphic novel format his troubled childhood with a radiologist father who subjected him to repeated x-rays and a withholding and tormented mother, an environment he fled at the age of sixteen in the hopes of becoming an artist.

Our Totally Cool World

[Open Me Up](#)

by Laura Buller, Julie Ferris, Niki Foreman, Fran Jones and Susan Kennedy ISBN 0756655323

A spectacular 3-D cover (featuring an incredible die cut to reveal the internal organs) will wow browsers, while the superb interior design, imagery, and information will seal the deal.

[The Lego Book](#)

by Daniel Lipkowitz, Alastair Dougall and Jorgen Vig Knudstorp ISBN 0756656230
From its beginnings in a carpenter's workshop and the development of the first plastic brick, to the group's current position as an international brand, a timeline highlights key moments in LEGO® history.

[What's Inside: Fascinating Structures Around the World](#)

by Giles Laroche ISBN 9780618862474

Presents a guide to such structures as skyscrapers, stone barns, limestone tombs, and grand castles, discussing how they were built, what they are used for, and profiles of the people who work and live within their walls.

[Children's Book of Art](#)

by Dorling Kindersley, Inc ISBN 0756655110

An introduction to the world's most amazing paintings and sculptures.

Think and Create

[Today I Will: A Year of Quotes, Notes, and Promises to Myself](#)

by Eileen Spinelli and Jerry Spinelli ISBN 0375962301

Inspired by 366 quotes from children's literature, the authors offer insight and advice for every day of the year.

[Show Off: How to Do Absolutely Everything One Step at a Time](#)

by Sarah Hines Stephens, illustrated by Bethany Mann ISBN 0763645990

From taking funny fake photos to breeding butterflies, from running a ninja obstacle course to reading minds to, yes, whipping up some edible fake barf, here is the source for learning how to do absolutely everything.

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

Prepared by Vicki Wood

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