

Great Books for Giving 2020

Children's Books

[You Are Light](#) and [My Favorite Color](#) by Aaron Becker

Two sparsely narrated odes to the phenomenon of light features a translucent cut out shape that children can hold up to the light to colorfully transform each nature-themed spread.

[If You Come to Earth](#) by Sophie Blackall

A glorious guide to our home planet, and a call for us to take care of both Earth and each other. This stunning book is inspired by the thousands of children Sophie Blackall has met during her travels around the world in support of UNICEF and Save the Children.

[Every Little Letter](#) by Deborah Underwood

In a world where all the letters of the alphabet live in separate cities surrounded by walls, little h and small i's newfound friendship inspires all the divided communities to connect and form such words as courage, cooperate, and kindness.

[In the Woods](#) by David Elliott, illustrated by Rob Dunlavey

Presents poems about the secret lives of animals who live in the dark woods, including a curious raccoon, a stealthy bobcat, and a bear just waking up from hibernation.

[Donut Feed the Squirrels](#) by Mika Song

Mika Song gives readers something to laugh at as these squirrels try their hardest to get some donuts while just about everything goes wrong. A fun "donut caper" graphic novel that focuses on madcap action, problem-solving, and the power of working together.

[All the Birds in the World](#) by David Opie

Take a beautifully illustrated journey -- with an adorable kiwi bird as your guide -- through the vast and colorful world of birds, with its tapestry of textures, sounds, and sights.

[The Dog Who Lost His Bark](#) by Eoin Colfer

Patrick has been desperate for a dog of his own for as long as he can remember, and this summer, with his father away, he longs for a canine friend more than ever. Meanwhile, in his short doggy life, Oz has suffered at the hands of bad people. Somewhere out there, he believes, is an awesome boy -- *his* boy.

[The Witches](#) by Roald Dahl, adapted into graphic format by Penelope Bagieu

This full-color graphic novel edition of Roald Dahl's *The Witches*, adapted and illustrated by Eisner Award winner Pénélope Bagieu, is the first-ever Dahl story to appear in this format.

[Catalyst](#) by Sarah Beth Durst

Zoe must figure out how to keep a giant kitten safe in this magical adventure about change, expectation, and accepting all for who they truly are and regardless of shape or size.

[Rocks and Minerals: Geology from Caverns to the Cosmos](#)

Join a crystal-crazy fanboy and a famous rock hunter on a geological journey that will take them to the summit of a volcano, deep within the earth, and even into outer space! They'll learn about the unstoppable forces that shape our planet and they might even pick up a gemstone or meteorite along the way.

[Solar System by the Numbers; A Book of Infographics](#) by Steve Jenkins

Through infographics and illustrations readers will learn about the unfathomably huge and fascinating topic of solar systems. Explore the galaxy that surrounds our planet through astounding numbers, facts, and figures.

Tweens and Teens

[The Big, Fun Kid's Cookbook](#) by *Food Network Magazine*

It's the ultimate kid's cookbook from America's #1 food magazine: 150+ fun, easy recipes for young cooks, plus bonus games and food trivia!

[Look Both Ways](#) by Jason Reynolds

Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and weaves them into one funny, poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

[Rayne & Delilah's Midnite Matinee](#) by Jeff Zentner

Every Friday night, best friends Delia and Josie become Rayne Ravenscroft and Delilah Darkwood, hosts of the campy creature feature show Midnite Matinee on the local cable station. With the end of senior year approaching, the girls face tough decisions about their futures.

[We Are Not Yet Equal](#) by Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden

This young adult adaptation of the New York Times bestselling *White Rage* is essential antiracist reading for teens.

[Solutions and Other Problems](#) by Allie Brosh

Humorous stories from Allie Brosh's childhood; the adventures of her very bad animals; merciless dissection of her own character flaws; incisive essays on grief, loneliness, and powerlessness; as well as reflections on the absurdity of modern life.

Adults

[Anxious People](#) by Frederick Backman

Taken hostage by a failed bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety-prone strangers—including a redemption-seeking bank director, two couples who would fix their marriages and a plucky octogenarian—discover their unexpected common traits.

[My Omaha Obsession: Searching for the City](#) by Miss Cassette

Takes the reader on an idiosyncratic tour through some of Omaha's neighborhoods, buildings, architecture, and people; celebrating the city and its unusual and overlooked history.

[Wildlife of Nebraska: A Natural History](#) by Paul Johnsgard

Paul A. Johnsgard surveys the variety and biology of more than six hundred Nebraska species. Narrative accounts describe the ecology and biology of the state's birds, its mammals, and its reptiles and amphibians, summarizing the abundance, distributions, and habitats of this wildlife.

[The Least Interesting Place](#) by Matt Steinhausen

Matt is an amateur historian and sixth generation Nebraskan who takes pictures of his surroundings. This book is a compilation of favorites from over 3 decades of his Nebraska images.

[The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of America](#) by Marcus Samuelsson

Chef, author, and television star Marcus Samuelsson gathers together an unforgettable feast of food, culture, and history to highlight the diverse deliciousness of Black cooking today.

[Red Stilts](#) by Ted Kooser

Each poem in Red Stilts strives to reveal the complex beauties of the ordinary, of the world that's right under our noses. Right under Kooser's nose is rural America, most specifically the Great Plains, with its isolated villages, struggling economy, hard-working people and multiple beauties that surpass everything wrecked, wrong, or in error.

[Educated: A Memoir](#) by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University.

[Buy Nothing, Get Everything: Discover the Joy of Spending Less, Sharing More, and Living Generously](#) by Liesl Clark and Rebecca Rockefeller

In the spirit of The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning and The Joy of Less, experience the benefits of buying less and sharing more with this accessible 7-step guide to decluttering, saving money, and creating community from the creators of the Buy Nothing Project.

[Why We're Polarized](#) by Ezra Klein

Reveals the structural and psychological forces behind America's descent into division and dysfunction. Neither a polemic nor a lament, this book offers a clear framework for understanding everything from Trump's rise to the Democratic Party's leftward shift to the politicization of everyday culture.

Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed
by Lori Gottlieb

With startling wisdom and humor, Gottlieb invites us into her world as both clinician and patient, examining the truths and fictions we tell ourselves and others as we teeter on the tightrope between love and desire, meaning and mortality, guilt and redemption, terror and courage, hope and change.