

Give a child the gift of reading! Encourage the child in your life to read books that make them laugh, take them on trips to faraway places, or simply make them wild about books. The Chicago Public Library suggests these children's books, all published in 2007, as perfect gifts for any occasion, all year round.

The Chicago Public Library's next Bookmania celebration is November 22, 2008. Your next Bookmania celebration is in your own home, every day you and your child read books together.

For the Youngest Book Lovers

Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?

By Bill Martin Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle
Holt, Ages 1-4

Baby bear sets off to find his mama and on the way meets a cast of North American animals in this final collaboration between picture book masters Martin and Carle.

Bounce

By Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Scott Menchin
Atheneum, Ages 2-5

Jump, hop, leap and . . . bounce the day away in this fun rhyming romp.

A Good Day

By Kevin Henkes
Greenwillow, Ages 2-5

What begins as a bad day for a bird, a puppy, a fox and a squirrel turns into a very good one for each of them and their young neighbor.

Katy Duck

By Alyssa Satin Capucilli, illustrated by Henry Cole
Little Simon, Ages 2-5

Katy loves to twirl, stretch and float, but even little ballet divas can sometimes be shy.

Mouse Shapes

By Ellen Stoll Walsh
Harcourt, Ages 2-6

All it takes is some circles, squares, triangles and imagination for these three mice to outsmart the cat.

Picture Book Delights

Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity

By Mo Willems
Hyperion, Ages 3-7

Trixie and her Knuffle Bunny are back and ready for school, but they're not the only ones . . .

Mrs. O'Leary's Cow

By Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Jenny Mattheson
Little, Brown, Ages 3-8

Did the poor old cow do it? Sing along to find out!

Punk Farm on Tour

By Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Knopf, Ages 3-7

Watch the wheels of the tour van go 'round and 'round as these musical farm animals rock and roll all over America.

Pirates Don't Change Diapers

By Melinda Long, illustrated by David Shannon
Harcourt, Ages 4-8

Maybe so, but they can be great babysitters, and that's something any big brother or sister will appreciate.

A Train Goes Clickety-Clack

By Jonathan London, illustrated by Denis Roche
Holt, Ages 2-5

All aboard for a rockin' and rhymin' ride through country and town.

Pick a Poem

Animal Poems

By Valerie Worth, illustrated by Steve Jenkins
FSG, Ages 8-12

Dozens of poems crawl, fly, slither, swim and hop their way across these pages.

Good Sports: Rhymes about Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More

By Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Chris Raschka
Knopf, Ages 6-11

When the Children's Poet Laureate and a Caldecott Medalist team up, they're sure to hit one out of the park, and this book doesn't fumble at all.

Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry

Collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters, illustrated by Polly Dunbar

Candlewick, Ages 1-5

These more than 60 delicious selections will create the newest poetry fans as youngsters play with the rhythm and rhyme of language and love.

Crafty Creatures

Badger's Fancy Meal

By Keiko Kasza
Putnam, Ages 4-7

Badger has a taste for some gourmet food, but it seems as though the ingredients he's after are hungrier (and quicker) than he is.

Beetle Bop

By Denise Fleming
Harcourt, Ages 4-8

Beetles are all around us, in the city and on every page of this colorful and informative guide for fans of read alouds and entomology alike.

Dog

By Matthew Van Fleet, photographs by Brian Stanton
Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, Ages 1-5

This sturdy interactive book introduces action words and concepts, and features many different breeds like Pugs and Chihuahuas (not to mention one cat).

Gator

By Randy Cecil
Candlewick, Ages 3-6

Gator is left with a hole in his heart after jumping off of the unloved carousel, one that only children's laughter and music can fill.

Penguins, Penguins, Everywhere!

By Bob Barner
Chronicle, Ages 2-6

All 17 species of penguins come out to play in this rhyming, diving, waddling good time, with fun facts included, such as the answer to why they are all black and white.

Vulture View

By April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins
Holt, Ages 5-8

The world from a turkey vulture's perspective is a stinky and rotten place full of tasty food, and it's shown here with rhymes and cut-paper collage illustrations which are just gross enough.

Terrific Tales

The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County

By Janice N. Harrington, illustrated by Shelley Jackson
FSG/Melanie Kroupa, Ages 4-8

Charming country collages paired with a story of a smart young girl trying hard every day to get her hands on a mama hen will have readers of this book squawking for more.

Fiona's Luck

By Teresa Bateman, illustrated by Kelly Murphy
Charlesbridge, Ages 7-11

Anyone who gets to enjoy this delightful original Irish folktale is as lucky as a leprechaun.

Papi's Gift

By Karen Stanton, illustrated by René King Moreno
Boyd's Mills, Ages 5-8

Because her father lives in a different country, he can only wish Graciela *feliz cumpleaños* over the phone, but that doesn't mean they don't love each other very much.

Pretty Salma: A Little Red Riding Hood Story from Africa

By Niki Daly
Clarion, Ages 4-8

After being tricked by Mr. Dog in this amusing variation on the familiar cautionary story, Salma will never talk to another stranger again.

Books to Read Aloud Together

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners

By Laurie Keller
Holt, Ages 5-8

When new neighbors move in, Mr. Rabbit is worried about how they will get along, but it turns out that they are very polite and pun-ny.

Fred and Ted Like to Fly

By Peter Eastman
Random House, Ages 4-8

These small and tall friends are taking off in their red and green airplanes for a new adventure.

A Seed Is Sleepy

By Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long
Chronicle, Ages 6-9

Gentle and clear language, along with pleasing watercolor drawings, illustrates the secrets and miracles of various types of seeds.

The Talented Clementine

By Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Marla Frazee
Hyperion, Ages 8-10

Clementine may not be a very good Elvis impersonator, and bottle cap tap dancing may not be her strongest skill, but through it all she is a very funny, fantastic (and talented!) third grader.

Today I Will Fly!: An Elephant and Piggie Book

By Mo Willems
Hyperion, Ages 4-8

Just as Piggie is confident about flying, this wonderful new series will increase the confidence of beginning readers.

Will You Read to Me?

By Denys Cazet
Atheneum/Richard Jackson, Ages 6-8

It takes Hamlet a long time to find someone on the farm who loves to read and write as much as he does, but through it all he's true to himself and his poetry.

Books to Get Caught Reading

The Down-To-Earth Guide to Global Warming

By Laurie David and Cambria Gordon
Scholastic/Orchard, Ages 8-14

For kids and teens concerned about the environment and the earth's temperature, this dynamic book features important information and practical tips on reducing their carbon footprint.

Elijah of Buxton

By Christopher Paul Curtis
Scholastic, Ages 9-13

As the first child in his family born into freedom, 11-year-old Elijah finds the courage to leave the safety of his Canadian home to travel to the American South to right a wrong.

Horse-radish: Bitter Truths You Can't Avoid

By Lemony Snicket
HarperCollins, Ages 9-13

"A Series of Unfortunate Events" may have reached its end, but Snicket still has a lot of observations and advice under his hat to enlighten and entertain those brave enough to read this book.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

By Brian Selznick
Scholastic, Ages 9-13

This truly original creation blends pictures and words as never before to present the mystery of a Parisian orphan who hides himself and his big secret from the outside world.

The Mysterious Benedict Society

By Trenton Lee Stewart
Little, Brown, Ages 10-13

The ad for "gifted children looking for special opportunities" intrigues 11-year-old Reynie and begins his quest through distant places where he and his friends must fight against forces leading children to take over the world.

Paint the Wind

By Pam Muñoz Ryan
Scholastic, Ages 9-12

Sent to live with relatives she doesn't know in a place she's never been, Maya finds a new life and a love for horses in Wyoming in this sure-to-be-a-classic story about love, adventure, and wide-open places.

Slam Dunk!

By Sharon Robinson
Scholastic, Ages 9-12

Even though Jumper is gifted on both the basketball court and in school, getting used to sixth grade in the big city can still be tricky.

Reads for All

Book Crush: For Kids and Teens—Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Interest

By Nancy Pearl
Sasquatch, All ages

Don't know which book to read or share next? Open this first and you're sure to find one (or hundreds) to fall in love with.

Let It Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals

By Ashley Bryan
Atheneum, All Ages

Gorgeous and colorful cut paper illustrations unlike anything you've ever seen bring these traditional and celebratory songs to life.

Mazeways A to Z

By Roxie Munro
Sterling, Ages 4 and up

Bring your clever minds and fingers along on these 26 "alpha-adventures" to find your way through mazes searching for hidden objects and other surprises.

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