

Books to Celebrate the Holidays!

Grades K–2

Dream Snow

by Eric Carle

32 pages

A holiday-cum-counting story with hidden surprises on every page that lets you see what Santa dreams! Plays a holiday tune.

Hold Christmas in Your Heart: African American Songs, Poems, and Stories for the Holidays

by Cheryl Willis Hudson

32 pages

Heartwarming holiday poems and songs by Langston Hughes, Paul Dunbar, Lucille Clifton, Gwendolyn Brooks, and others!

It's Hanukkah!

by Jeanne Modesitt, Robin Spowart (Illustrator)

32 pages

For the youngest child's understanding of this blessed holiday, here is the story of Hanukkah, as well as information on the Menorah, traditional Hanukkah blessings and the game of the Dreidel. Also includes a recipe and song.

Polar Express

by Chris Van Allsburg

32 pages

A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa! Caldecott Medal winner.

Seven Candles for Kwanzaa

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, Brian Pinkney (illustrator)

32 pages

The music, the stories, the traditions—learn all about this great African American holiday.

Who's That Knocking on Christmas Eve?

by Jan Brett

32 pages

"Brett transports readers high above the Arctic Circle in this vivid, well-paced retelling of an old Norwegian folktale." —Booklist

Grades 3–6

Celebrate! Stories of the Jewish Holidays

by Gilda Berger

128 pages

Dramatic stories about eight Jewish holidays—plus easy-to-make recipes, crafts, and more!

Dear America: Christmas After All:

The Great Depression Diary of Minnie Swift. Indianapolis, IN, 1932

By Kathryn Lasky

185 pages

At the age of twelve, Minnie Swift is living through one of the toughest times in America's history, The Great Depression. She keeps a detailed diary over the span of one Christmas month. Reflecting the sadness — but also optimism — that characterized the time, this is an intimate portrait of a midwestern family's days and nights, ups and downs, triumphs and losses. It is the story of one family's persevering spirit: the Christmas spirit.

The Gift of the Magi

By O. Henry

O. Henry's classic story of young love at Christmastime.

Snowflake Bentley

by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

illustrated by Mary Azarian

32 pages

This beautiful biography, winner of the 1999 Caldecott Medal, tells the true story of a Vermont farm boy who was mesmerized by snowflakes.

A Very Special Kwanzaa

by Debbi Chocolate

112 pages

Charlie's school is holding a Kwanzaa festival and his teacher chooses him to lead the celebration.

Wind in the Willows Christmas

by Kenneth Grahame

illustrated by Michael Hague

32 pages

Rat and Mole catch the holiday spirit! "This chapter from Grahame's classic novel works well as a stand-alone story, and Hague's artwork captures both the setting and the personalities of the enterprising Rat and the sensitive Mole."

—Horn Book