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A Season of Gifts

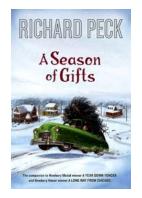
Tessa McMillan

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Peck, Richard. A Season of Gifts. Illustrated by Brandon Dorman. Dial, 2009. ISBN 9780803730823. \$16.99. 164 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult Rating: Outstanding Genre: Humorous stories; Subject: Neighbors--Juvenile fiction; Moving, Household--Juvenile fiction; Illinois--History--20th century--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Bob Barnhart is not too happy to be moving to a new town. He is the new kid, the preacher's son, and a small twelve-year-old. But one thing that counts towards him is his neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel. At first he is caught off-guard by the feisty and tremendously busy ninety-year-old woman. He and his family soon learn to appreciate her hard work and her secret charity. With her help, Bob gains confidence and begins to feel more accepted in the town.

Peck does it again, resurrecting the character of Mrs. Dowdel from *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder* for another amazing story about love, charity, care, and family. Peck's writing is well-crafted, humorous, up-lifting, and heart-warming. Like his other books about Mrs. Dowdel, this book is also worthy of a Newbery Honor or Award.

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