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Publisher

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Christmas Books
by Katie Blake

Picture Books
Alden, Raymond. Why the Chimes Rang. Pedro and Little Brother teach humility to the proud townspeople.
Barry, Robert. Mr. Willowby’s Christmas Tree. A tree that never quite fits the room, finds many unusual homes.
Carlson, Natalie Savage. Surprise in the Mountains. The prospector, Old Quill, and his burro, Shag, are helped by a special friend at Christmastime.
Grahame, Kenneth. Mole’s Christmas or Home Sweet Home. A chapter from Wind in the Willows gets delightful illustrations by Beverly Gooding and becomes a book itself.
McGinley, Phyllis. How Mrs. Santa Claus Saved Christmas. Is it possible for Santa to oversleep?
Moore, Clement. The Night Before Christmas, with illustrations by Tomie de Paola. Fun decorations and illustrations.
Politi, Leo. Rosa. The setting of this simple story is Mexico.
Potter, Beatrix. The Tailor of Gloucester. "not enough twist."
Seuss, Dr. How the Grinch Stole Christmas. TV has made this a classic.
Spier, Peter. Christmas. A wordless book showing a traditional Christmas as only Peter Spier can!
Stevenson, James. The Night After Christmas. Two discarded toys find a warm-blooded friend who has a bright idea.

**Fiction**

Caudill, Rebecca. *A Certain Small Shepherd*. A mute child raised in a motherless mountain family is in need of a miracle. This finely written short story is becoming a modern classic.

Dickens, Charles. *A Christmas Carol*. New vibrant illustrations by Greg Hildebrandt add life to this traditional story.

Erickson, Russell E. *Warton's Christmas Eve Adventure*. On Christmas Eve Warton gets lost in a blizzard and meets an unusual friend, while his brother, Morton, worries at home. It's a perfect story for that "first long book" for middle graders.

Hays, Wilma Pitchford. *Christmas on the Mayflower*. This combination Christmas/Thanksgiving books tells the famous story in a realistic manner.

Petersham, Maude and Miska. *Told Under the Christmas Tree*. This large anthology was selected by ACEI and illustrated by the Petershams, and is definitely one of the best.

Robinson, Barbara. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. The worst children in town land the starring rolls in the annual church pageant. This hilarious book has some tender moments and should be required reading every Christmas.

Rollins, Charlemae. *Christmas Gift*. An anthology of Christmas poems, songs, and stories written by and about black people, and with favorite holiday recipes from plantation kitchens.

Seredy, Kate. *A Tree for Peter*. Peter Marsh tells a story about a lame boy, a little red spade, a tiny Christmas tree, and a... a man nobody knew.

Tazewell, Charles. *Small One*. This is the story of a small boy who found out why donkeys are not really stubborn, but proud, because... Versions of this story have been produced for radio, and Disney has also animated it.

Wiggin, Kate Douglas. *Carol Bird's Christmas*, formerly called *The Bird's Christmas Carol*. This old Victorian tale is very sentimental, but perhaps a smidgen of sensitivity is needed today to offset the Laverne and Shirley syndrome.

**Non-fiction**

Barth, Edna. *Holly, Reindeer, and Colored Lights, the Story of the Christmas Symbols*.

Nativity. Winston Press has placed forty of the finest paintings from early Renaissance to late baroque opposite forty verses from the Bible in order to tell the Christmas story. It's really a coffee-table type book with which the art of Christmas can be introduced to children (and adults).

Petersham, Maud and Miska. *The Christ Child*. The Petersham's stylized art illustrate the texts of the Bible in chronological order and includes prophesies, the birth, and early childhood.


**Beginning to Read (or Controlled Vocabulary)**


Bonsall, Crosby. *Twelve Bells for Santa*.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. *Katie and the Sad Noise*.


Hoban, Lillian. *Arthur's Christmas Cookies*.

Hoff, Sid. *Santa's Moose*.

Manushkin, Fran. *The Perfect Christmas Picture*. Mr. Green tries repeatedly to get a perfect Christmas picture of his rambunctious family.