



A Book for a Winter Day



Image by Jessie Willcox Smith [American Illustrator, 1863-1935]

There's no better time to curl up with a good book than over winter break! Put a book or two on your gift list and get lost in a story.

• **“The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles”** by Michelle Cuevas and illustrated by Erin E. Stead is a beautiful story of a lonely man who is led to friendship by an anonymous note.

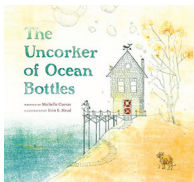


Image courtesy Penguin Young Readers

• **“Kid Artists: True Tales of Childhood From Creative Legends”** by David Stabler and illustrated by Doogie Horner tells how great artists, from Leonardo da Vinci to Yoko Ono, began their creative journeys to fame.



Image courtesy Quirk Books

• **“Moo: A Novel”** by Sharon Creech plays with poetry, prose and typography as it shares 12-year-old Reena's move to Maine. Along the way, Reena learns a lot about kindness and caring.

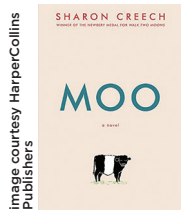


Image courtesy HarperCollins Publishers

• Ranger Rick and his friend Scarlett guide readers through **“Amazing Animals: Butterflies”** by Stacy Tornio. From life cycles to gardening to attract butterflies, you can drift away to a warm summer afternoon through words and pictures.



Image courtesy NWF

• **“ABC: The Alphabet From the Sky”** by Benedikt Gross and Joey Lee gives readers an actual bird's-eye view of the letters of the alphabet, using aerial photography.



Image courtesy Penguin Young Readers

• Topher, Brand and Steve tell the story of **“Ms. Bixby's Last Day”** by John David Anderson. When their favorite teacher must leave school to fight cancer, the boys hatch a plan to spend a special afternoon with her.

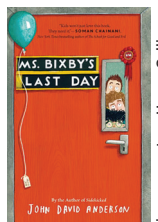


Image courtesy HarperCollins Publishers

• **“I Am Jane Goodall”** by Brad Meltzer and illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos is one of a series of books about ordinary people who change the world. Goodall's love of animals led her to be an important scientist and animal rights activist.

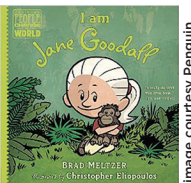


Image courtesy Penguin Young Readers

• **“I Am a Story”** written and illustrated by Dan Yaccarino celebrates the art and the power of storytelling. The book traces all the ways human beings have shared stories throughout our history.

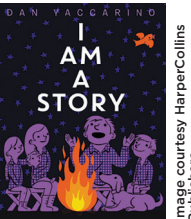


Image courtesy HarperCollins Publishers

What's on your reading list for winter break? Will books be on your wish list for the holidays? Set a goal to read a certain number of books, and share your favorites with a friend!

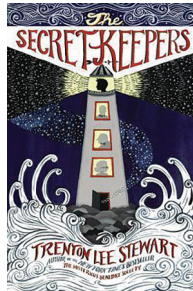


Image courtesy Little, Brown and Co.

• In **“The Secret Keepers”** by Trenton Lee Stewart, young Reuben has a secret. And his secret has a secret! With his friends, Reuben must solve its mysteries and save his town.

• **“Ugly”** by Robert Hoge is the true story of a boy born with a large tumor on his face and legs that were short and twisted. But even with his disabilities and multiple surgeries, he didn't let obstacles prevent him from having a fun and full childhood.

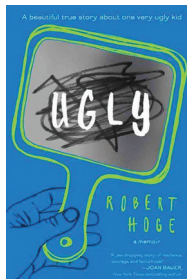


Image courtesy Viking Books for Young Readers

• **“Otis and the Kittens”** by Loren Long

Long is the loving tale of Otis the tractor. His hard work on the farm makes him a hero — but what happens when a hero needs help? The gorgeous art contributes to the sweet story of Otis and his friends on the farm.



Image courtesy Penguin Young Readers

Resources



On the Web:

- kidlit.tv
- read.gov/letters

At the library:

- **“Been There, Done That: Writing Stories From Real Life”** by Mike Winchell
- **“Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White”** by Melissa Sweet

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of winter reading are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ANIMALS, ART, BOOKS, FRIENDSHIP, GIFTS, ILLUSTRATION, OBSTACLES, PHOTOGRAPHY, POETRY, READING, SCIENTIST, SECRET, SHARE, STORY, TEACHER, TRUE, TYPOGRAPHY.

J J I L L U S T R A T I O N V
U L O B S T A C L E S F T R A
Y V C P F R I E N D S H I P S
R S K O O B V A T M M C S Y E
T E R E A D I N G R W K T R C
E R W T E A C H E R U L F O R
O A E A N I M A L S I E I T E
P H O T O G R A P H Y D G S T
A S A C Y H P A R G O P Y T E
K U Y C T S I T N E I C S L F

Cook's Corner

Acorn Squasharama

You'll need:

- 1 medium acorn squash
- 1 tablespoon butter, plus 1 teaspoon

- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon honey

What to do:

1. Cut the acorn squash in half. Scoop out all the seeds.
2. Place the two halves in 1/4 inch of water in a glass baking dish. Make sure the cut portion is facing down in the water.
3. Cover with plastic wrap. Microwave on high for 12 to 15 minutes.
4. Allow to cool slightly, then scoop cooked squash out of the rind and into a bowl.
5. Mix in butter, brown sugar and honey until blended well.
6. Divide into 4 servings.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. where a picture hangs (4) _____
2. person who grows crops (6) _____
3. coin picturing Abe Lincoln (5) _____
4. family get-together (7) _____
5. spice in a shaker (6) _____
6. breakfast food (8) _____
7. it goes with peanut butter (5) _____

WA	PP	ION	AKES
UN	PE	FARM	LL
NNY	PANC	PE	LLY
RE	JE	ER	ER

Answers: wall, farmer, penny, reunion, pepper, pancakes, jelly.

The Mini Page® © 2016 Universal Uclick

©2016 Blue Ox Technologies Ltd. Download the app on Apple and Amazon devices.

Mini Jokes



Perry: Where do sheep buy their cars?
Penny: From a ewes-car dealer!

Parker: Why do sheep travel at night?
Pam: They're sheepwalking!

Eco Note



Thailand, the world's biggest exporter of seahorses, announced it will stop selling the animals because of concerns over their wild population. Seahorses are widely used in traditional Chinese medicine, and are prized by home aquarium owners.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look for reviews of top children's books in your newspaper. How many of the books would you like to read?

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit:
bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

The **Mini Spy Booklets** (volumes 1, 2 and 3) features 48 of your favorite puzzles from The Mini Page!

Help Mini Spy and other classic characters from The Mini Page find hidden objects from a list of clues.

The 8.5x11-inch booklet is just \$4, plus \$1 shipping and handling.

Visit **MiniPageBooks.com**, or call **844-426-1256** for more information.

Mail payment to:
Andrews McMeel Universal,
Mini Page Books,
1130 Walnut,
Kansas City, MO 64106.

