

Winter Reading



Photo by David van der Mark

Mini Fact:

Travel time is perfect for reading. It makes the trip go faster! Read a book or listen to an audio book with your family.

Your winter break from school gives you plenty of time to get wrapped up in great stories! Let's get started with The Mini Page's winter reading suggestions.

• The title character in "The Wonderling" by Mira Bartók lives in Miss Carbunkle's Home for Wayward and Misbegotten Creatures — part animals, part humans. It's the only home he's known until he finds a friend named Trinket, and together they escape.

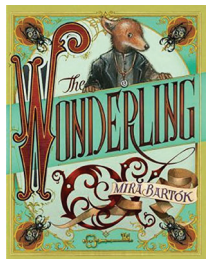


Image courtesy Candlewick Press

• In 1925, a British explorer named Percy Fawcett set off into the Amazon jungle in search of a "lost city" he believed existed. Weeks later, he was gone and never heard from again. "The Quest for Z: The True Story of Explorer Percy Fawcett and a Lost City in the Amazon" by Greg Pizzoli tells the exciting story of Fawcett's adventure.



Image courtesy Viking

• In "Malala's Magic Pencil" by Malala Yousafzai, and illustrated by Kerascoët, the young Nobel Peace Prize-winner presents a picture book of her story of wishing for and achieving an education in Pakistan, where many girls were not allowed to go to school.

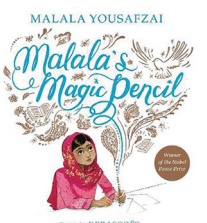


Image courtesy Little Brown

• "Come With Me" by Holly M. McGhee, and illustrated by Pascal Lemaître, is meant for younger readers. But its positive message about reaching out to others and being brave, one step at a time, is for anyone who is overwhelmed with negative news.

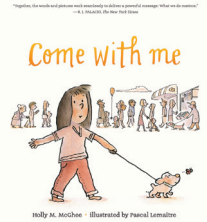


Image courtesy Putnam

• "Journeys: Young Readers' Letters to Authors Who Changed Their Lives" is a collection by the Library of Congress Center for the Book of letters written by students in grades 4 through 12 to authors from Laura Ingalls Wilder to Mark Doty.

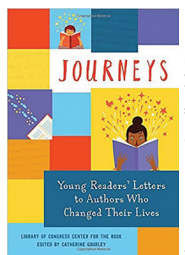


Image courtesy Candlewick Press

• Linda Bailey's "Under the Bed Fred," illustrated by Colin Jack, offers a new approach to dealing with a monster under the bed: Just talk to him!



Image courtesy Tundra Books

• Markus Motum gives readers a whole new perspective on space travel in "Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover." This large-scale book is packed with facts and cool illustrations about the rover that touched down on Mars in 2012.

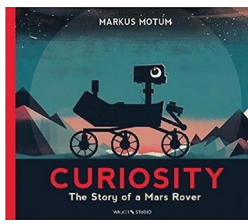


Image courtesy Candlewick Press

"I'm Just No Good at Rhyming"

by Chris Harris, and illustrated by Lane Smith, turns words into playthings and tickles readers' funny bones. If you thought poetry was boring, this book will change your mind.

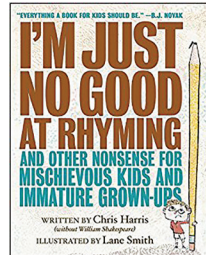


Image courtesy Little Brown

• In April 1963, just months before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, he traveled to Ireland, the home of his great-grandparents. "Patrick and the President" by Ryan Tubridy, and illustrated by P.J. Lynch, tells the story of a young boy who gets the chance to meet the American president.

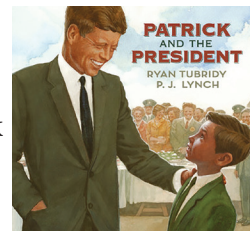


Image courtesy Candlewick Press

"The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole"

by Michelle Cuevas introduces 11-year-old Stella, who has lost her dad but somehow gained a pet black hole. At first, Stella likes the idea of feeding things into the black hole, where they disappear. But then it gets complicated.



Image courtesy Dial Books

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPbooklist
- bit.ly/MPALA

At the library:

- "So, You Want to Be a Writer?" by Vicki Hambleton
- "Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry" by Jack Prelutsky

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:



ADVENTURE, AUDIO,
BLACK HOLE, BOOKS,
BREAK, FAWCETT,
FICTION, FRED, FUN,
HISTORY, JOURNEY,
MALALA, POETRY,
POSITIVE, READ,
RHYMING, SCHOOL,
TRAVEL, WINTER,
WONDERLING.

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

Cook's Corner

Easy Pita Chips

You'll need:

- 3 whole-wheat pita breads
- 1 tablespoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- butter-flavored cooking spray



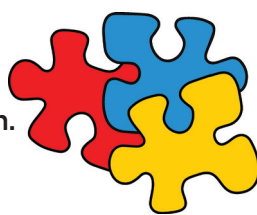
* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Cut 3 whole pita breads into halves, then quarters, then eighths.
2. Separate each triangle into two single pieces. You will have 48 triangular "chips."
3. Mix seasoned salt and other spices in a small bowl.
4. Place chips in a single layer on a large cookie sheet or baking pan. Spray lightly with cooking spray. Sprinkle spice mixture evenly over the chips and spray again.
5. Bake in a 450-degree oven for 7 to 9 minutes until slightly brown and crispy.
6. Cool chips. Serve with salsa, soft cheese spread or other dips.

Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of the holiday season.



nrtwei _____
mlfiay _____
smicu _____
esvitfe _____

Answers: winter, family, music, festive.

Mini Jokes



Noelle: What is Santa's elves' favorite drink?
Ned: Minnesoda!

Eco Note



Winter's first frost arrived in the U.S. about one month later than it did a century ago. A NOAA meteorologist says the average first freeze over the past decade is a week later than it was between 1971 and 1980, adding that this spring's last frost occurred nine days earlier than normal. He and other scientists say global warming is causing the shrinking winter.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Make a list of books you'd like to read over the winter break. Share and compare your list with a friend.

Teachers:

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

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