# Winter Holidays

## Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library

### A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
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| **HANUKKAH (December)**  
Easy  
A child relates how the family celebrates both Christmas and Hanukkah, enjoying the rich traditions of both religions. | E AL49D |
From snow on the ground to making applesauce and latkes to lighting the menorah, this story shows the seasonal and traditional ways we know Hanukkah is on its way. | E B23179I |
A little girl describes the short, harsh days of winter in Alaska and her efforts to keep a moose from destroying trees and the swing in her back yard, which she finally succeeds in doing with the help of a Hanukkah treat. Includes facts about Hanukkah and the aurora borealis. | E B81228H |
| **PreK-3** | Bunting, Eve, and Wendy Popp. *One Candle*. [New York]: Joanna Cotler | E |
Every year a family celebrates Hanukkah by retelling the story of how Grandma and her sister managed to mark the day while in a German concentration camp.


Biscuit learns about celebrating Hanukkah.


When a storm grounds their plane, a Jewish family celebrates Hanukkah with a Yupik Eskimo family and discovers they share many customs.


Grandma explains the meaning of Hanukkah while showing Molly how to cook latkes for the holiday.


After falling off of the tricycle she just received as a Hanukkah gift, Gabi recalls the story of the brave Maccabees and finds the courage to try again.


A family rescues a dog from a shelter during Hanukkah, and the pup proceeds to create holiday hijinks as he gets used to his new home.


A young girl finds a way to include her elderly neighbor in her family's Hanukkah celebration.


Two young bunnies learn about the customs of Hanukkah from their parents and grandparents before they light the menorahs, eat potato latkes, and play dreidel.

Hillert, Margaret, and David Schimmell. *Happy Hanukkah, Dear Dragon*. E
A boy and his pet dragon learn about Hanukkah from a Jewish friend.

**PreK-3**  
A rich, arrogant merchant takes the family of a poor peddler to court and learns a lesson about the meaning of Hanukkah.

**PreK-3**  
In 1912 New York, Gertie feels left out while Mama and her four older sisters cook Hanukkah dinner, but Papa comes home and asks her help with an important task.

**PreK-3**  
A young Jewish girl is fascinated by the traditions of Christmas when her family moves to a small town in France.

**PreK-3**  
Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel visits the Emperor, leaving a new housemaid to prepare for his Hanukkah party, but returns to find that she has misused the clay man he created. Includes historical and cultural notes.

**PreK-3**  
On the first night of Hanukkah, Old Bear wanders into Bubba Brayna's house and receives a delicious helping of potato latkes when she mistakes him for the rabbi. Includes a recipe for latkes.

**PreK-3**  
Relates how Hershel outwits the goblins that haunt the old synagogue and prevent the village people from celebrating Hanukkah.

**PreK-3**  
When an old lady swindles him out of his magic dreidels, Jacob tries to get them back in time for the family's Hanukkah celebration.
Two evil spirits wreak havoc on the town of Brisk's Hanukkah celebration, until the town's wise rabbi puts a stop to their mischief.

During the Revolutionary War, a Jewish soldier from Poland lights the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah and tells General George Washington the story of the Maccabees and the miracle that Hanukkah celebrates. Based on factual events.

A family of mice enjoys the doll house and furnishings that Rachel receives as gifts on the eight nights of Hanukkah.

When there is no oil for Chanukah, Hayim, the poorest man in the village, sends the Almighty a letter, asking for help.

Moses and his little brother Benjamin find a way to celebrate Hanukkah during their dangerous emigration to Palestine.

Living in a small Louisiana town where hers is the only Jewish family, Toby Belfer gives a party in order to explain Hannukah.

When young Steve, who is Jewish, tells his new neighbor, Jackie Robinson, that his family does not have a Christmas tree, Jackie brings one to his neighbors, not knowing that they celebrate Hanukkah instead of Christmas. Based on a true story.

Counts the candles of a menorah on each night of Hanukkah while recalling
images of Jewish life in different places and times, such as Herod's temple in Jerusalem, a shtetl in Russia, and a refugee ship bound for the New World.


On the last night of Chanukah, after hearing how an old man lost his family in the Holocaust, a young boy makes a wish that is carried to God as the menorah candles burn down.


Annie leads her family on a nighttime journey around their farm to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah. At each stop along the way Annie uses riddles (and potatoes) to mark old traditions and start new ones.


A young Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany arrives in New York City on the seventh night of Hanukkah and receives small acts of kindness while exploring the city.


On the eighth night of Hanukkah, a family rescues a Yiddish-speaking, dreidel-playing parakeet.


Every night of Hanukkah Grandma tells a story at bedtime. Includes the Hanukkah legend.

**Fiction**


During Hanukkah two children help a Holocaust survivor to once again embrace his religious traditions.


While Rebecca Rubin helps her building's ailing superintendent take care of
his homing pigeons, she puzzles over what to do with the Christmas centerpiece her teacher insisted she make but which has no place in her Jewish home.


As he tries to survive Hannukah, 1971 in the suburbs of the suburbs of Los Angeles, middle-school magician Joel learns to appreciate life's small miracles with the help of an unusual stranger he meets on a bus.


Alexandra, a young Jewish girl from Jerusalem, describes her life and the creation of Hanukkah, more than 2000 years ago.


Twelve-year-old Sam, the son of a Jewish father and Christian mother, struggles to understand religion and its role in his family's life during the Hanukkah and Christmas holidays.


Miss Mackle's third graders share December holiday traditions--Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Three Kings Day, and Korean New Year--with each other and with Harry's great grandfather, who has just moved to a nursing home.


When a blizzard leaves a family housebound one Hanukkah, they share what little food they have with some starving animals who later return the favor.


During his family's eight-day celebration of Hanukkah, eight-year-old Henry learns the pleasure of giving and overcomes his fear of dogs.


At Christmas-Hanukkah time, a Christian woodcarver gives a carved angel to a young Jewish friend, who struggles with accepting the Christmas gift until
he realizes that friendship means the same thing in any religion.


Eight stories, describing the way the Berg family celebrates various Jewish holidays, including the Sabbath, Rosh Hashanah, Simchat Torah, and Hanukkah.

**Nonfiction**


Hanukkah is a holiday celebrated by people of the Jewish religion. Hanukkah lasts eight days and is celebrated in late November or early December, the date changes every year, during the celebration people light candles, eat special foods and sing songs.


An illustrated retelling of the classic Hannukah song, with directions for playing the dreidel game and a recipe for making latkes.


Describes how people in Billings, Montana joined together to fight a series of hate crimes against a Jewish family.


Introduces Hanukkah and discusses its origins, the menorah and its candles, seasonal foods, and celebrations.

Hall, Margaret. *Hanukkah*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Pub., 2011. 296.4 H1453H

Young readers learn about Hanukkah through simple text, photos and activities.


The vivid photography of National Geographic illustrates the joyous celebrations of Jewish people around the world—including Ghana, Uganda, India, Israel, Peru, the United States and Poland, as they light menorahs, spin dreidels, and make latkes.

Filled with fascinating facts about the midwinter Jewish holiday, this charming little book is a must for everyone on your Hannukah shopping list.


Rich, luminous fabrics. Eleven miles of thread. An uncountable number of stitches. Clear, sparkling words. With these ingredients Anna Grossnickle Hines celebrates the lights that brighten the darkest season of our year. In poems and quilts she captures each heartening glow and flicker, from the moon and aurora borealis to the holiday lights of Santa Lucia, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Chinese New Year to one lone candle and a hidden flashlight in the deep, dark night.


Ring in the holiday with eighteen writers who extol, excoriate, and expand our understanding of this most merry of Jewish festivals as they offer up funny, irreverent, and, yes, even nostalgic takes on a holiday that holds a special place in Jewish hearts . . . and stomachs.


An extended family celebrates the eight nights of Hanukkah.


Introduces Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, and describes how it is celebrated in different areas of the world, including Israel, Istanbul, Italy, Poland, and New York City. Includes glossary and recipes.


Presents ideas for hosting a Hanukkah party and discusses the history of the holiday.


Beautiful illustrations and simple language bring the holidays to life.

An easy introduction to the traditions of this Jewish holiday.


Retellings of twelve traditional tales from Jewish folklore featuring elements of magic and relating to holidays, including Rosh Hodesh, Sukkot, Tu bi-Shevat, and Shabbat.


Hanukkah miracles fill the pages of this sparkly foil menorah book! Turn the candle-shaped pages one by one to learn about the eight days of this Jewish holiday and celebrate with blessings, gifts, and family fun.


Welcome to a special puppet show. It is about the Maccabees. Who were the Maccabees? Let's find out.

**WINTER SOLSTICE (December 21)**

**Nonfiction**


Presents facts and folklore about the shortest day of the year, a day that has been filled with magic since ancient times.


Describes how and why daylight grows shorter as winter approaches, the effect of shorter days on animals and people, and how the winter solstice has been celebrated throughout history. Includes activities.

**CHRISTMAS (December 24-25)**

**Easy**


A resident of the North Pole with the ability to slide up and down chimneys meets a flying reindeer and some industrious elves, in this fictional biography of Santa Claus.


A child relates how the family celebrates both Christmas and Hanukkah, enjoying the rich traditions of both religions.


A baby in Cincinnati whose first words are "ho ho ho" grows up to become Santa Claus.


Celebrating Christmas for the first time, Bear and his friend Mouse have a party, but whenever Bear comes back from the kitchen with more treats Mouse has vanished in search of a present.


Santa Claus is tired of delivering toys and decides to retire to somewhere warm, but things do not work out as expected.


Shortly before Christmas, Santa discovers that the sleigh needs major repairs and the reindeer are out of shape, and so the elves build him a jet to use on his annual trip.


Howard likes owning but not sharing. At Christmas time, he learns the value of giving real things and not just material possessions.


In this celebration of the joy of giving, one snowy Christmas Eve, a king buys some soft, red cloth to make the perfect Christmas gift for his daughter.
Little does he know that the left-over cloth will be used to make presents for many more of the kingdom's inhabitants, right down to the last teeny bit of cloth which is made into a scarf just right for a mouse.


A lively marching band of animal musicians leads the Christmas Parade.


Clifford, the big, lovable, red dog, celebrates his first Christmas.


Christmas is two days away, but Frances and her little brother Peter, who recently moved with their father to a lighthouse on an isolated island, fear that they will have no treats, no music, and no visit from Santa. Includes facts about the Flying Santa Service.


Duck and Rat's bookstore is busy as Christmas approaches and all the animals buy gifts and celebrate with their friends.


A wish list letter from a good-hearted boy shows Santa, who is suffering from a case of post-Christmas blues, that the holiday spirit lasts 365 days a year.


Illustrations and brief text reveal the various unmentionables sported by an excited Pea as he prepares for Santa's arrival while baking, decorating, mailing, and more.


In nineteenth-century New York City, when Pa brings home a young turkey in hopes of saving money on their Christmas dinner, his family faces all sorts of trouble--and expense--in their tiny apartment.

An irrepressibly happy elf defies Santa's rules in order to make sure the residents of Bluesville are not sad at Christmas time.


As Farmer Brown prepares the house for Christmas, Duck tries to play Santa—but he gets stuck in the chimney, along with all the other animals who try to help.


On Christmas Eve, animals at the North Pole, gingerbread men, robots, and more say good night to their mommas, papas, and buddies.


Fearful of the outside world, an elderly woman plans to spend Christmas alone watching television, rather than with her family, until the doorbell rings.


Llama Llama becomes overwhelmed as Christmas preparations progress, until his mother reminds him of the real gift the holiday brings.


Little Pyn finally persuades her gruff father to find the perfect Christmas tree in the snowy forest and, after bringing it home, decorates it with him.


Bradley Bartleby has been very bad since the day he was born and finally gets what he deserves after turning his family's home into a fearsome trap for Santa, who has always given him nothing but socks.


Christmas from a wombat's point of view, including competition for the carrots children have left out for Santa's reindeer, and guess who gets stuck in the chimney?

When his family moves from a small Mexican village to North Carolina, Eduardo asks how soon he will feel at home, and slowly his Tio Miguel's seemingly impossible replies come true until, at last, he can put out the Nativity scene he carved with his grandfather.


In 1914 France, a British soldier writes to his mother about the strange events of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, when German and Allied soldiers met on neutral ground to share songs, food, and fun. Includes historical notes and glossary.


In 1930s Liverpool, England, Bronwen and Dylan live with their widowed mother, who works long hours doing other people's washing, and even though she sometimes must leave the children alone in the house, she cautions them not to speak to the O'Rileys next door, who go to a different church.


Sets the traditional Christmas carol in Africa, using a combination of text and rebuses. Includes author's note about some of the African traditions depicted.


After rescuing her Christmas nutcracker from an army of angry toys, Clara is rewarded by the nutcracker, now a prince, with a fantastic nighttime journey to a realm of dancing fairies, beautiful palaces, and wonderful things to eat.


A young Jewish girl is fascinated by the traditions of Christmas when her family moves to a small town in France.


In rhyming text based on "The Night Before Christmas," the troops of NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, discover that Santa is in trouble on Christmas Eve and quickly set about helping him.

PreK-3  Kladstrup, Kristin, and Tim Jessell. *A Night In Santa's Great Big Bag*. New E

Louis's favorite toy lamb inadvertently falls into Santa's bag on Christmas Eve.


When two best friends, a giant and an elf, grow Christmantown's holiday tree, disaster strikes.


Nature and the animal kingdom celebrate the birth of Jesus, while most people do not even notice that a miracle has occurred.


The day before Christmas, everyone in Jose's neighborhood seems grumpy, including his mother who is homesick for Puerto Rico, but when he and his parents return from the pizzeria where they borrowed an oven to cook their roast, the heavenly aroma reminds those they pass of all they have to celebrate.


A New York Harbor tugboat captain and his family take the tug up the Hudson River to pick up and tow the barge carrying the enormous Christmas tree that will be displayed at Rockefeller Center.


Naughty comes easily to Ernest. Nice is harder. But maybe if Ernest writes to Santasaurus about all the ways he's tried to be helpful and well-behaved, he can get that Jurassic Turbo Scooter X9 with the working headlight, racing fin, and secret compartment he has his eye on.


After hearing the terrible news that Christmas may be cancelled, Reginald the zombie, Zarfon the alien, and Abigail Zink rush to the North Pole, only to
find Santa and his elves stuck in drifts of marshmallow.


Tells, in rhyme, of the year that Santa Claus, suffering from a cold and other ailments, decides to take a vacation at Christmastime, and of the surprising response of children around the world.


In Harlem in the 1920s, in the middle of a family Christmas party, Marie receives a nutcracker from her Uncle Cab, which leads to a marvelous dream in this resetting of E.T.A. Hoffmann's familiar tale. Includes historical notes.


Every Christmas, Nicholas Duck helps Santa by collecting gift lists, but this year his little brothers and sister create havoc when they try to help, leading Nicholas to contemplate the true meaning of Christmas.


A festive tribute to all the things that make Christmas awesome.


A boy who really loves his Christmas tree finds a way to preserve its spirit year-round in this sweet and child-friendly holiday story.


The fantasy story of a magical Christmas, featuring the dance of the sugar plum fairy, comes to life for children in this keepsake edition of a classic Christmas story.


When Santa's toy shop runs out of wood just days before Christmas, Santa calls on Michael Recycle to save the day.

PreK-3  Peet, Amanda, Andrea Troyer, and Christine Davenier. *Dear Santa, Love*,

A Jewish girl decides that she wants to celebrate Christmas, so she writes a letter to Santa.


When Maria, Juan, and their mother go to the border between California and Mexico to visit their grandmother at Christmas, Maria must devise a way to get Juan's gift over the fence.


Yukio wants to have a snowball fight but all the other ninjas want to stay good for Santa. So Yukio decides to sabotage Santa.


Emrick the shoemaker can barely afford food for himself and his wife, but they give far more than they take. One day, Emrick's generosity compels him to trade a pair of shoes for a beautiful woodlands painting. He hangs the curious work of art on the wall and goes to sleep hungry. The next morning, he awakens to find a beautifully-crafted pair of shoes resting upon his desk. Later that night, Emrick and his wife watch from the shadows as several tiny elves emerge from inside the magical painting!


When Santa's allergies prevent him from keeping a homeless kitten, he and Mrs. Claus find it a perfect home.


A child provides instructions for properly capturing Santa--briefly--to ask him questions and tell him things.


Disappointed when a gift he wished for all year seems quite puny on Christmas morning, young Roland wishes for bigger and bigger gifts before learning a valuable lesson about being careful what you wish for.
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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>When young Steve, who is Jewish, tells his new neighbor, Jackie Robinson, that his family does not have a Christmas tree, Jackie brings one to his neighbors, not knowing that they celebrate Hanukkah instead of Christmas. Based on a true story.</td>
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<td>While spending Christmas with her Cuban American grandmother in Miami, Florida, young Nina misses her usual New England holiday but enjoys learning about the foods and other traditions her father knew as a child.</td>
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<td>Introduces Christmas traditions through photographs and brief text that uses one word relating to the subject for each letter of the alphabet.</td>
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<td>RIBEC</td>
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<td>The inhabitants of Busytown prepare for Christmas in this collection of stories, songs, and holiday activities.</td>
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<td>LIS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Little Blue Truck is spreading cheer by delivering Christmas trees to his animal friends. Can you help count each green tree?</td>
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<td>Christmas has arrived with so many rules to follow that David fears his mistakes will cause Santa to pass him by.</td>
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<td>TAN</td>
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<td>Tallulah is thrilled to play a mouse in a professional production of The Nutcracker and works very hard to be the most marvelous mouse of all, but opening night brings some surprises.</td>
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<td>Following Mary and Joseph's humble journey, this story depicts the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ as well as the angelic appearances witnessed</td>
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by the shepherds and the three wise men.


It's Christmas Eve, Have you been good? Santa's packed up all the presents and is headed your way! With the help of a certain red-nosed reindeer, Santa flies over the Bank of America building, Hearst Tower, Rainbow Row, and the Duke Energy Center, Charlotte; the Cape Hatteras lighthouse, NC; South Carolina State House, Columbia; Memorial Bell Tower, Raleigh; the Jackson Building, Asheville; the Arthur Ravenel Jr Bridge and Fort Sumter National Monument, Charleston; and The Gaffney Peach, SC. "Ho, ho, ho!" laughs Santa. "Merry Christmas, Carolinas!"


One starry night, as all sorts of animals watch over their young, Mary and Joseph watch over their baby boy, Jesus, in Bethlehem.


A holiday read-aloud evokes the rituals of decorating a Christmas tree, from picking out just the right tree and digging out boxes of decorations to stringing tinsel and turning on the twinkling lights.


The author describes Christmas at his grandmother's apartment in Spanish Harlem the year she introduced him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Diego Velazquez's portrait of Juan de Pareja, which has had a profound and lasting effect on him.


Hannah Greyweather's life is changed when she finds a magic wish-granting boot in the forest outside her home.

**Fiction**


Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa. Amazing Africa. But she is spending Christmas with her granny in Canada. She can't wait to see snow for the first time! And how will it feel to be so far from home?

A parallel account to Charles Dickens's classic *A Christmas Carol*, recounting events from the point of view of Scrooge's old partner, Jacob Marley.


Told in the alternating voices of Dash and Lily, two sixteen-year-olds carry on a wintry scavenger hunt at Christmas-time in New York, neither knowing quite what--or who--they will find.


When ten-year-old Jake's widowed mother breaks her leg just before Christmas while her sister and best friend are both away, a grandfather Jake barely remembers must come to Baltimore, Maryland, to help a neighbor take care of him.


As the holidays approach, dutiful daughter Judith Graber, feeling overwhelmed, overworked and underappreciated, is attracted to her father's new employee, Ben Knox, Sugarcreek's own "bad boy", but refuses to be another one of his conquests.


A young Welsh soldier fights along the Western Front during World War I, experiencing the horrors of trench warfare before participating in the famed Christmas Truce of 1914.


Marty and his best friend, Shiloh are on another adventure. Marty learns when a secret is too dangerous to keep, and that hate can spread like fire.


Jack and Annie travel back to Victorian London when Merlin asks them to use their magic to inspire Charles Dickens to write *A Christmas Carol*.

Thaler, Mike, and Jared D Lee. *The Christmas Party From the Black*

While worrying about the class gift exchange, Hubie discovers the true meaning of Christmas.


Presents in graphic novel format an adaptation of Dickens' story of a miser named Ebenezer Scrooge who learns the true meaning of Christmas when three ghostly visitors review his past and foretell his future.


Fifteen-year-old Miss Penelope Lumley, a recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is hired as governess to three young children who have been raised by wolves and must teach them to behave in a civilized manner quickly, in preparation for a Christmas ball.

**Nonfiction**


Meet William, Harold, and Lew Christensen, three small-town Utah boys who caught the ballet bug in the early 1900s. They performed on vaudeville and took part in the New York City dance scene. Russian immigrants shared the story of The Nutcracker with them, and during World War II, they staged their own Christmastime production in San Francisco. It was America's first full-length version and the beginning of a ... holiday tradition.


Even in winter, there’s always something to celebrate! Budding readers are immersed in a variety of winter holidays and their traditions.


Illustrations accompany the King James text of the story of the Nativity.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and this richly illustrated treasury celebrates everything there is to love about the holiday season!


Traditional Christmas carols by various persons plus fiction and folklore about Christmas.


Learn about how Christmas is celebrated in some people's homes.


Describes the customs, songs, foods, and activities associated with the celebration of Christmas in Mexico.


Describes the customs, songs, foods, and activities associated with the celebration of Christmas in the Philippines.


Describes the customs, songs, foods, and activities associated with the celebration of Christmas in Sweden.


Recounts the traditions and folklore surrounding the Christmas tree, including its origin, customs around the world, and the activities that take place on a Christmas tree farm.


Introduces various Christmas customs.

Hinman, Bonnie, and Eida de la Vega. *Christmas*. [Bilingual ed. English-
Describes the holiday Christmas, examining its origins and the reason that it is celebrated, and also provides information about some of the ways in which countries from around the world celebrate it.


Search and find Santa and his elves. Ten of Santa's elves are missing. and Santa needs help to find them.


Filled with new and beloved poems, stories, songs, and more, here is a beautiful collection of prose and verse that celebrates the Christmas season.


On Christmas Eve, six French-Canadian trappers meet a mysterious stranger who gives them the gift of a trip to their homes in Montreal, if only they agree not to speak until they cross their own thresholds.


Katrusya's family cannot afford Christmas, but they cut a small pine tree in the forest, decorate it with buttons, and, when baby spiders hatch in its branches, they especially enjoy the silvery webs that appear.


Rhyming text provides clues for the various Christmas themed pictures hidden under the flaps.


An illustrated version of the traditional song.


Presents ideas for hosting a Christmas party and discusses the history of the holiday.

There is a legend that describes how, at midnight on Christmas Eve, all creatures are granted the power of speech for one hour. In this collection, Lee Bennett Hopkins and a dozen other poets imagine what responses they might offer.


Discusses how people in Italy celebrate Christmas, identifying traditional symbols, decorations, presents, foods, and customs associated with the holiday.


Explains the background, traditions, foods, and celebrations of the Christian holiday, Christmas.


Twenty-five haiku give readers a fresh, humorous perspective on Santa's December preparations, and rich illustrations pull readers into every wintry scene.


On each of the twelve days of Christmas, more and more gifts arrive from the recipient's true love.


A Look and Find puzzle book featuring Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.


This heartfelt story tells the true but unlikely tale of a young woman working
in the city and a young boy in desperate need of friendship and guidance. In the short time after they meet, Laura realizes Maurice has never celebrated Christmas, so she opens her heart and her home and sets out to show him how wondrous the holiday is. What she finds through his glowing eyes is that the meaning of the holiday is truly about giving, not getting, as they each discover the magic of Christmas and how one small random act of kindness can truly change a life.


Provides instructions and step-by-step photos for making a variety of simple snacks and drinks with a Christmas theme.


Super simple cooking for the holidays.


As a couple strolls through town on Christmas Eve, the man buys gift after gift for the woman he loves, and after arriving at a Christmas party so magnificent it is overwhelming, they slip back to their own quiet home.


Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Clause, and you've got a right to believe. Believe in Christmas. Believe in Santa. Believe in the magic of a holiday season that warms the hearts of the world around you.

**Biographies**


Virginia and her brother are never allowed to pick first from the donation boxes at church because their father is the priest, and she is heartbroken when another girl gets the beautiful coat that she covets. Based on the author's memories of life on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.


Draws on memories of Christmases from mid-twentieth-century New England, describing family members and friends who share holiday treats, enjoy sled rides, and listen for the sound of reindeer hooves on the roof.

When her grandmother takes in a stranded family at Christmas, Grace is reluctant to share her favorite holiday with strangers, even though the visiting family includes a "real live ballerina."

**Kwanzaa (December 26-January 1)**

**Easy**

**PreK-3**  

A girl describes how she and her family celebrate the seven days of Kwanzaa.

**PreK-2**  

Li’l Rabbit searches for a gift for his grandmother when she is sick during Kwanzaa and surprises her with the best gift of all. Includes "The Nguzo Saba - The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa."

**Fiction**


Kenya Curtis is only eight years old, but she knows that she's different, even if she can't put her finger on how or why. It's not because she's Black--most of the other students in the fourth-grade class at her West Philadelphia elementary school are too. Maybe it's because she celebrates Kwanzaa, or because she's forbidden from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Maybe it's because she calls her father--a housepainter-slash-philosopher--"Baba" instead of "Daddy," or because her parents' friends gather to pour out libations "from the Creator, for the Martyrs" and discuss "the community."

Kenya does know that it's connected to what her Baba calls "the shame of being alive."

**Nonfiction**


An introduction to the customs and meaning of Kwanzaa.


Introduces Kwanzaa, including the origins of the holiday, the seven...
principles it teaches, why the holiday is important, and how it is celebrated today.

**NEW YEAR’S DAY (January 1)**

**Easy**


Every year, Haitians all over the world ring in the new year by eating a special soup, a tradition dating back to the Haitian Revolution. This year, Ti Gran is teaching Belle how to make the soup -- Freedom Soup -- just like she was taught when she was a little girl. Together, they dance and clap as they prepare the holiday feast, and Ti Gran tells Belle about the history of the soup, the history of Belle's family, and the history of Haiti, where Belle's family is from.


Starting at one o'clock, twelve sets of guests come to P. Bear's New Year's Eve party, each in the same number as the hour of arrival. After midnight everyone parties in their black and white finery! How many friends total came to the party?


Miss Flora McFlimsey has a surprise late night visitor on New Year's Eve.


Squirrel can't think of a New Year's resolution until she realizes that by helping her friends, she's made one after all.


When Shanté is sent to find black-eyed peas for her family's New Year's celebration, she learns about each of her neighbor's New Year's traditions in their home countries.


A young Asian American girl living in Hawaii tries to make dumplings for her family's New Year's celebration.
Cat siblings Harry and Emily try to stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve.

Emma struggles in her New Year's resolution to be nicer to the other witches Dolores and Lavinia, as they persist in being dreadful to her, until their relationship climaxes in a dreadful revenge on New Year's Day.

Today most of the pandas are preparing for the New Year’s celebration. They are sweeping and cleaning, planting flowers and writing wishes on ribbons. But Rainbow Panda really wants to be a hero and has an explosive plan. Can Rainbow Panda convince others to join him? Will he become a hero or just get everyone in a lot of trouble?

**Fiction**

Eric is having a New Year’s Eve sleepover, but Hubie has never spent the night away from home. He’s going to be in a strange bed, in a strange room, in a strange house. What if Hubie gets sick or has a bad dream? What happens if Eric starts telling his cheesy jokes? And what’s all this talk about making a New Year’s revolution?

**Nonfiction**

Explains what the New Year is and how it is celebrated.

Entries are arranged alphabetically discussing the history, traditions, symbols, and observances of Christmas and the surrounding holidays and
celebrations.

Describes how the coming of the new year is celebrated in different countries and by different cultures around the world.

A collection of original poems about New Year celebrations throughout the year and around the world. Includes an introduction about worldwide New Year celebrations plus a map, information about calendars, New Year greetings in many languages, additional factual information about the celebrations, and author’s sources.

**Biography**

The preparations for the joyous New Year’s Day celebrations of Roch’s childhood began long before winter came. In the summer, his grandmother made her cherry wine. The neighboring villagers painted and repaired their sleighs in anticipation of the winter’s parade. When the big day finally arrives, it is a whirlwind of activity: the cooking and eating of the lavish feast, the arrival of visitors and distant relatives, the singing and dancing, and the family blessing. In the end, Roch knows who to thank for such a wonderful day.

**CHINESE NEW YEAR (January or February)**

**Easy**

A young Korean girl describes the new clothes that she will be wearing to celebrate the new year.

Buster meets new friends in San Francisco’s Chinatown who teach him about the Chinese New Year and good luck symbols in Chinese culture.

Chinn, Karen, Cornelius Van Wright, and Ying-Hwa Hu. *Sam and the Lucky* E C4419S.B
Sam must decide how to spend the lucky money he's received for Chinese New Year.


Long-Long helps his grandfather sell his cabbages to buy what they need for Spring Festival.


Max's friend Lily invites him to her family's celebration of Chinese New Year.


The legendary Nian monster has returned at Chinese New Year. Nian is intent on devouring Shanghai, starting with young Xingling! But Xingling is clever and thinks quickly to outwit him with Chinese New Year traditions.


A family prepares to celebrate the Lunar New Year and looks forward to the good luck they hope it will bring.


Little Maomao's father works in faraway places and comes home just once a year, for Chinese New Year. At first Maomao barely recognizes him, but before long the family is happily making sticky rice balls, listening to firecrackers, and watching the dragon dance in the streets below. Papa gets a haircut, makes repairs to the house, and hides a lucky coin for Maomao to find. Which she does! But all too soon it is time for Papa to go away again.

**Fiction**


The first Christmas since Julie's parents' divorce is difficult for the whole family, but Julie finds comfort sharing the Chinese New Year traditions of her best friend, Ivy Ling, and thinking about new beginnings.

Mindy is excited to go to the Lunar New Year parade in her new town with her father and her friend Sally.


Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.


In the Chinese Year of the Rat, a young Taiwanese American girl faces many challenges: her best friend moves to California and a new boy comes to her school, she must find the courage to forge ahead with her dream of becoming a writer and illustrator, and she must learn to find the beauty in change.


With the help of his popular Uncle Chester, a young Chinese American boy tries hard to fulfill a promise to have firecrackers for everyone on the Chinese New Year in 1954. Includes an afterword with information about the Chinese customs portrayed in the story.

**Nonfiction**


Explains the significance of the holiday, discussing the traditional foods and customs.


Examines the customs, traditions, foods, and lore associated with the celebration of Chinese New Year.


Explains what festivals are and looks at various symbols and events associated with the fifteen-day celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Describes the events that take place during the Chinese New Year and explains how it is celebrated.


Chinese New Year welcomes the start of a new year. It is the most important celebration in China. People enjoy this holiday in many different ways. Chinese people follow certain traditions to make sure they have a lucky new year.


Presents an overview of Chinese New Year, how people get ready for it and the celebration itself, which includes fireworks, parades, family gatherings, and the Festival of Lanterns.


Students will learn about the history and traditions of Chinese New Year.


This book introduces Chinese New Year, an ancient holiday that begins on the first day of the new Chinese calendar and is celebrated around the world.


Simple text and photographs describe and illustrate Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.

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