

records and calendars

thing other than a toy or game this Christmas:

FINDING THE BIGGEST and best selections may require more than a quick trip to the nearest mall. You may need to check out a children's bookstore or a giant publishing emporium in order to locate that special book you're looking for.

A good choice for preschoolers would be anything from the line of more than 35 books created by Jim Henson Productions (Waldenbooks). The Muppets' creator has put together an extensive series, "Reading Is Fundamental," that features the Muppet Babies and Fraggle Rock characters and is designed to help young children learn to read and write.

An all-time favorite is "Mother Goose." Random House recently produced an excellent "Mother Goose" in which Arnold Lobel ferreted out some

300 familiar — and not so familiar — nursery rhymes and combined them into a big book.

Other possibilities include: "Demi's Opposites: An Animal Game Book," by Demi (Grosset and Dunlap); "Mr. Little's Noisy Train," by Michael Fowler (Grosset and Dunlap); and "Big Bird's Tea Party, A Sesame Street Musical Storybook" (Sight and Sound Music Software).

Readers ages 5 to 8 might enjoy "The Amazing Voyage of Jackie Grace," by Matt Faulkner (Scholastic); "Activity Picture Dictionary," by Ronald Ridout (Barron's); "The Jolly Postman," by Allan Ahlberg (Little, Brown & Co.); or any of the books by Dr. Seuss.

Teens may be fascinated by "The Blue Sword" (Greenwillow), a Newberry award-winning book by Robin McKinley; "Nargum and the

Stars," by Patricia Wrightson (MacMillan); "Dicey's Song," or "Sons from Afar," by Cynthia Voight (Atheneum); or "The People Could Fly," by Alfred A. Knopf (Atheneum).

The young sports fan in your family might enjoy "Tough Stuff: The Man in the Middle," by Sam Huff (St. Martin's Press); "The 1989 Baseball Card Engagement Book," by Michael Gershman (Ticknor and Fields); or "The First Book of Football," by John Madden (Ticknor and Fields).

Books specifically for the holiday season include: "Christmas is Love," by Joan Walsh Anglund (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich); "Babar and Father Christmas," by Jean de Brunhoff (Random House); "Twelve Gifts for Santa Claus," by Mauri Kunnas (Crown); and "Little Tree," by e.e. cummings (Crown).



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