

# These books make perfect holiday gifts for children

BY VICKI DIAZ  
CORRESPONDENT

Next time you face the holiday rush, why not take this column along? It's a list of six titles guaranteed to gladden the hearts of young readers on The Day. Each book is easy to find and easy to wrap. Also important: No assembly and not a single battery required.

■ **Henry Hikes to Fitchburg**, by D.B. Johnson (Houghton Mifflin, \$15.00, ages 5-9).

Selected by the New York Times as one of the year's 10 best illustrated books, this charming adventure introduces kids to the likes of Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Bronson Alcott, although not one of them makes an actual appearance. In the book, the bushy-tailed character and an ursine friend make a deal as they plan a visit to Fitchburg. Henry will

walk, they decide, but his friend will work until he's earned enough to buy a train ticket to the city; then they'll see who gets there first. The tale is supposedly based on a real occurrence in Thoreau's life.

Endnotes feature fun facts on the famous Americans, and the blocky, colorful illustrations are sure to entertain and amuse.

■ **I Walk at Night**, by Lois Duncan, illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher (Viking, \$15.99, ages 5-9).

Another selection on the aforementioned New York Times list, *I Walk at Night* packs special appeal for feline

readers. In it, a sleek calico tells us her nighttime tale ("...when your eyelids close/I tread on silken toes/Drawn by sweet memories/of caves and jungle trees"). The midnight-blue and dreamy-green illustrations perfectly complement the feline, evocative text.

■ **The Boy Who Ran to the Woods**, by Jim Harrison; illustrated by Tom Fohrt (Atlantic Monthly Press, \$18.95, ages 8-up).

Written by a noted Michigan author and illustrated by an Ann Arbor artist, this enthralling story about childhood tragedy is set in Michigan's north woods. Jimmy, a high-strung seven-year-old (his family calls him a wild child), loses an eye in an accident and eventually finds himself through the articulate lessons of nature. Harrison has authored several novellas, six novels, seven poetry collections, plus much noted non-fiction, and this brief tale ranks among his most eloquent work. Fohrt's carefully detailed, woody palette features white pines, herons, loons, turtles, raptors, and other wild life, and captures the mood throughout.

■ **Because of Winn-Dixie**, by Kate DiCamillo (Cokesbury Press, \$15.99, ages 9-12).

In this Newbery Medal chapter book, readers meet ten-year-old India Opal Buloni and her scruffy canine companion, Winn-Dixie (named after the supermarket where Opal first encounters him). DiCamillo writes a highly engaging, coming-of-age story about a girl who yearns for the mother who has walked out on her and her father years earlier. She also yearns for new friends, since she and her dad have just moved to the little town of Naomi, Florida, and she knows not a soul there. *Because of Winn-Dixie* comes to life through its colorful, endearing characters, its mossy Florida backdrop, and some delightful touches of humor. Opal's father is a preacher and the novel definitely contains food for thought, but it is never, ever preachy.

■ **The Doll People**, by Ann Martin and Laura Godwin; illustrated by Brian Selznick (Hyperion, \$15.99, ages 8-12).

In this imaginative and often-comical mystery novel, Annabelle is a "living doll" who's been around for a century, even though she'll never be more than eight years old. She dwells in a Victorian dollhouse with the rest of her porcelain family, doing pretty much the same old thing every day, until a new and "modern" family—the Furncruts—take up residence in their sparkly, pink plastic abode nearby. Annabelle quickly makes fast friends with neighbor Tiffany, and the two soon embark on many adventures together. Most of these adventures involve a search for Annabelle's Auntie Sarah Doll, gone missing more than forty years earlier. Some of the most amusing parts of the story occur when human characters intervene in the dolls' lives. At one point (thanks to the little girl who plays with them), toy chickens, cows, and horses pay a rather disruptive visit to the Dolls' Victorian parlor. At other times, Doll family members are stuffed unceremoniously into

an open icebox, the kitchen sink is abandoned on the stairway, and the Furncrut's swimming pool is filled with grape soda, making for an icky, sticky patio. Selznick's black-and-white artwork doubles the pleasure of this enchanting read.

■ **The Legend of the Teddy Bear**, by Frank Murphy; illustrated by Gijbert van Frankenhuyzen (Sleeping Bear Press, \$16.95, ages 5-10).

From Michigan's Sleeping Bear Press comes this endearing tale centering on President Theodore Roosevelt and the young bear he allegedly refused to shoot while out hunting one day in 1902. The resultant publicity apparently inspired a New York couple to create the first teddy bears. The rest, as they say, is history. As told on these pages, it's a delectable story, deliciously illustrated. Accompanied by a warm-and-fuzzy teddy bear, it could make the absolutely perfect gift.

## SOUND BITES

A Love Supreme (Deluxe Edition) (impulse, \$29.98) by John Coltrane  
John Coltrane's passionate late-career suite, *A Love Supreme*, is a deeply personal statement of religious devotion that has become one of the essential jazz recordings.

The 1964 session finds Coltrane's classic quartet—with pianist McCoy Tyner, bassist Jimmy Garrison and drummer Elvin Jones—at their peak, mixing swing-like structures, modal playing, polyrhythms and a freer approach to improvisation.

Coltrane's tenor saxophone solos range from contemplative to ebullient.

This two-disc deluxe edition offers something for both the Coltrane initiate and devotee. The first disc is a newly remastered version of the original LP that eliminates some audio flaws found on previous digital versions. The second disc includes the only live performance of the full suite—a concert at the 1965 Antibes jazz festival in France—that was previously available only on bootleg, non-U.S. releases. The 45-minute performance—15 minutes longer than the recorded version—allows for extended solos by Coltrane and Garrison in the Pursuance section.

The rest of the disc comprises alternate takes from the original recording session, most notably two previously unreleased sextet versions of the opening movement. Acknowledgement—with tenor saxophonist Archie Shepp and bassist Art Davis added—on which Coltrane's celebrated chanted passage is replaced by a tenor sax dialogue.

—Charles J. Gans, AP Writer

Through reader feedback, this interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find. If where a product is sold or service is available, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Please be patient about your requests and feedback; we receive an overwhelming number of phone calls. Also, please spell any uncommon items. If you don't see information about your request, we couldn't find it. Requests

## Join Santa for pancakes

The Detroit Zoo will kick off its annual Wild Winter celebration with Santa and a pancake breakfast. The pancakes start flipping at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 7, 14 and 21, in the zoo's Interpretive Gallery. The event costs \$35 for adults, \$30 for children, and includes breakfast, photos with Santa, a special gift from Santa and an appearance by the Radio City Rockettes. Call (248) 541-5717 to reserve tickets.

Through Wild Winter the zoo offers special activities, crafts and entertainment every weekend December to February. The fun includes ice carving demonstrations, performances by the Mosaic Youth Theater, Gemini, Marc Thomas and Max the Moose, and lots of decorated trees. Visitors can watch the snow monkeys soak in their hot tub and see the arctic fox sporting its white winter coat. Zoo admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, 2-12 and senior citizens, 69 and up. The zoo is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. everyday. It's located at Woodward and the I-696 service drive, Royal Oak.

## WHERE CAN I FIND?

clock made by Westclock for Francie of Commerce Township.

— A store that sells Season Ticket sleds for women for Kathy.

— A store that sells Members Only men's jackets for Irma.

— A store that sells Colgate Star Wars Galactic bubble mint tooth paste (Darth Vader on front) for Kim of Livonia.

— A store that sells La Laura perfume (said at Mervyn's) for Lori of Garden City.

— A locksmith that can make or has a

matching key for an old roll top desk for Susan.

— A store that sells a removable slide sash for Platt windows for Katie.

— A store that sells Jersey Bell milk bottles for Jan of Westland.

— A store that sells Andrea Eye O's (eye mask) for Margaret.

— A store that sells a videocassette of the television series *Northern Exposure* for Adrienne.

— A bulk food store in the Farmington area for Marge of Farmington Hills.

— A store that sells a large-scale rug beater for Dale.

— A store that sells Breck shampoo in the gallon size for Edith.

— A store that sells the Cairn Kindness hot rollers for Karen of Livonia.

— A store that sells men's slacks with a 28-inch waist and 32-inch inseam for Ed of Plymouth.

— A store that sells Sock Locks for socks to be used in the washing machine for Maine.

— Compiled by Sandi Jarackas

## CRAFT CALENDAR

Wayne County

Holiday Craft Show & Open House: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 29-30, Plymouth Road & Cane Supply, 1052 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Baskets, decorative and folk art painting, fine crafts, Christmas ornaments. (734) 455-2150

Christmas Craft Show: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Livestock, Canton. More than 80 crafters, bake sale and lunch available. Admission \$2, under age 12 free. (734) 981-1333.

Oakland County

Elf Shelf Arts & Crafts Show: Crafters may apply for the 36th annual juried show, Saturday, Nov. 30 at Troy High School. Send entries to P.O. Box 1545, Troy, MI 48099, or call Marilyn Johnson (248) 689-4992.

Elsewhere

L'Anse Creuse High School North: Crafty Christmas Art & Craft Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, 23700 21 Mile Road, between Gristle and North Avenue, Macomb. Food, refreshments, bake sale, band performances. No strollers. Donation at the door, \$2. (810) 589-3600.

## 02/03 UMS FALL SEASON UPCOMING EVENTS

Bolshoi Ballet

Swan Lake

Bois Akimov artistic director

Choreography by Yuri Gilevich

after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

TODAY! 2 p.m.

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## Handel's Messiah

(Mozart edition)

UMS Choral Union

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

Fri 12/6 p.m.

Sat 12/7 p.m.

Messiah as you've never heard it before! In the past, one composer's revision of another composer's music was considered a form of tribute rather than grounds for litigation. Some 40 years after Handel's original premiered in Dublin, Mozart revised the great oratorio, adding more wind instruments to the orchestra and reworking some of the solos. Messiah has been performed annually at UMS since the Choral Union's founding in 1979, and this beloved Ann Arbor tradition kicks off a week of holiday concerts.

Presented with the generous support of East and Middle Branch

Thomas Sheets conductor

Benjamin Mehta counter-tenor

Eric Cutler senior

Dean Fleming bass-baritone

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Sat 12/7 p.m.

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