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Telling It to Santa



Parent-Teachers' Associations

Christmas Books For Boys And Girls

By Winnifred Andrews
In thinking over the many possibilities of gifts for your girl and boys this Christmas, have you considered the lasting joy you would give them by building up a small, well-selected home library? Are you planning for the long winter evenings ahead or the many hours of leisure in the summer-vacation by your Christmas gifts to your boy or girl? Why not give them a book this Christmas, adding to the growing home library year by year as their interests develop and expand? "After all, there is nothing like a good book."

We offer you a few suggestions which may help you in choosing your Christmas books. By all means, study your boy and girl. Know what the special interests of the child are, before purchasing the book. Any child will like to read, if the book is not too difficult for him and if it contains information which he would like to know about.

Books For Girls and Boys From Nine to Fourteen
Attractive Editions of Classics. Alcott—"Little Women," Little, \$2.50. Illustrated by Jessie Wilcox Smith. A delightful story of home life in a beautifully illustrated edition. Every girl will love this book.
Carroll—"Alice to Wonderland," Doubleday, \$2.00. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. No child should miss an acquaintance with Alice. Before—"Robinson Crusoe and Gulliver," \$1.75. Illustrated by Louis Rhead. A fine edition with attractive illustrations made from sketches on Crusoe's Island. The Windermere Series is another good edition of this ever-popular story.
Pyle—"Merry Adventures of Robin Hood," Scribner, \$3.50. Pyle's story of Robin Hood is the best prose version of the old story. Good ballads. The person of Robin Hood has become so real that children cannot think of him as a legendary character. Pyle's drawings do much to vivify his merry characters.
Sperry—" Heidi," Dutton, \$2.50. Colored illustrations by Lyle Lawson. Any girl between the ages of nine and twelve should love this story of a little Swiss girl.
Stevenson—"Treasure Island," Scribner's, \$2.50. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth. Every child should possess at least one book illustrated by N. C. Wyeth, one of the famous illustrators of children's books. This edition of "Treasure Island" will make the story live for every boy who reads it.
"King Arthur and His Knights," edited by Allen; Rand, \$1.50. (Windermere Series). A splendid edition of the legends entering around King Arthur and the knights of his round table. The chivalry of the knights inspires boys of today to loftier ideals.
Recent Books for Boys and Girls
Ashmun—"School Keeps Today," Macmillan, \$1.50. "No School Tomorrow," Macmillan, \$1.75. Two school stories that girls will enjoy.

Books to Build and "Flying Model Aircraft"

If your boy likes to build model airplanes at home, he will surely be glad for this book which will tell him just how to build them.

Haynes—"Dark Frigate," Atlantic Monthly Press, \$2.00. A hearty manly novel, concerning a lad's life at sea and ashore in the day's of the Stuarts. This book is sure to meet your boy's demand for adventure. "The Dark Frigate" was awarded the John Newbery medal in 1924.

Koslow—"Flying With Lindbergh," If your boy is an admirer of Lindbergh and his record "We," you will surely want to look this book over.

Nusbaum—"Doric With the Indians," Putnam's, \$1.75. Doric Nusbaum, a young lad, tells of his experiences with the Indians in southwestern United States.

Palme—"The Girl in White Armor," Macmillan, \$2.50. A true story of the life of Joan of Arc for girls.

Putnam—"David Goes to Greenland," Putnam's, \$1.75. "David Goes to Baffin Land," Putnam's, \$1.75. A group of travel stories for boys written by David Putnam, a boy of twelve.

Sandberg—"Abe Lincoln Grows Up," Harcourt, Brace & Co. Boys and girls alike will like this story of Lincoln.

Books to Meet Various Interests of Boys and Girls
Burgess—"Animal Book for Children," Little, \$4.00. Burgess, "Bird Book for Children," Little, \$2.00. Burgess, "Flower Book for Children," Little, \$2.00. These three books give valuable information for children in story form. Plan to include one of them in your child's growing library.

Dawson—"Bible Stories for Young People," Crowell, \$2.50. Does your boy or girl find the stories in the Bible too difficult to read and enjoy? If so, perhaps this collection of stories will help to interest him in the Bible.

Milton—"Children's Book of Stars," Macmillan, \$2.00. An excellent book for children, written in simple language, and containing a wealth of information.

Reed—"Western Bird Guide," Doubleday, \$1.50. A pecked bird guide for your boy when he goes out in the woods. This book will help him to identify the birds he sees.

Stevenson—"Home Book of Verse for Young People," Holt, \$3.00. A splendid collection of poetry for young people.

Popular Children's Magazines
Have you thought of giving your boy or girl a magazine subscription this Christmas? Christmas would be the best time to give such a gift.

Following is a list of the most popular children's magazines:
American Boy, published by Scribner Publishing Co., Detroit, Mich., \$2.00 a year.
American Girl, published by Girl Scouts, 476 Lexington avenue, New York, \$1.50.
Boy's Life, published by Boy Scouts of America, 266 Fifth avenue, New York, \$2.00.
Music and Youth, published by G. B. Ross, 14 Aarlington street, Boston, Mass., \$2.00.
Nature, published by American

Timely Hints

A "Used" Christmas Card Game
A stack of old Christmas cards had kept my small daughter contented and happy for a half day while it poured rain outside. She had enjoyed each different picture, and had exclaimed in glee over the wonderful colorings on the gay cards. This little experiment gave me a useful idea.

I knew, from my own experience, that most Christmas cards eventually reach the waste paper basket. No matter how much we cherish them at Christmas, their appeal is only momentary, and about the middle of the spring when house cleaning arrives, we clear out the desk, and the Christmas cards find refuge in the waste paper basket. Some of us include leaf ones, make a list of names from the cards, but most of us trust to our trickish memory for our "next Christmas list."

With this idea of wasted Christmas cards in view, I started a Castoff Christmas card campaign among my friends. I soon had collected stacks of them, as each friend's desk yielded dozens of them, some several years old.

After this on rainy days my little daughter and I held a Christmas card game, in which we tied cards into bundles, ten in each. I let her help sort them. We tried to put as many different ones into a bundle as possible, and although she is but three and one-half she soon was quite adept in sorting them and surprisingly accurate in putting ten in a bundle.

One bright day the climax of our Christmas card game came in our trip to the children's ward of our city hospital where we left our Christmas card bundles each tied with a bright ribbon.

The nurses told me later that my little experiment proved to be as successful with the children in the hospital as it had been with my little daughter, and that it had amused them endless hours, and each child having a bundle of his own. It had given each one a personal pride in the cards of his assortment.

Christmas cards from a psychological standpoint have exactly the right effect on children. The cards are bright and colorful, always being decorated with the most cheerful colors in the spectrum. The subjects are pleasing and call to mind happy thoughts, and of course the whole idea of Christmas.

Damaak Curtains
Tinted linen damask carries with it the requisite notes of decorative and formality demanded in household window drapes. In the dining room the clever decorator now matches her cloth and hangings both in color and design, eliminating the necessity of searching for a suitable material to carry out the rich feeling of loveliness established by the table napery. Window hangings of linen fall in particularly decorative folds and lines, catching the different lights and shadows from wall brackets or candles. As in the case of linen damask table covers, drapes of this material when soiled should have the careful scrutiny of a home be sent through any special laundry, although they need not long process.

Aspirin Braces Up Cut Flowers
Experiments have confirmed the fact that cut flowers may be prevented from fading by giving them an aspirin tablet. The experiments were conducted with chrysanthemums. The treated blossoms outlasted the untreated by three days. Flowers which were badly wilted were given fresh water and an aspirin tablet. They revived in two hours looking as fresh as they did when picked. The leaves, however, remained wilted. The aspirin acts as an antiseptic, interfering with the enzyme which causes the closing of the stem at its cut surface.

"Good Will Toward Men"
This was what the morning stars said when they sang together that morning in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. Let the same message be in all our hearts this Christmas day.

THE FIRST CAROL
Many historians say that the first carol ever heard by mortal ears was that sung over the starlit fields of Bethlehem by a host of angels when they sang "Glory to God on High, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

COMMIT IN YOUR CORNER
By combining in the living room something of interest to each member of the family, it is possible to secure a pleasant unity in the home. Corner, if properly utilized, do much toward accomplishing this purpose according to the November American Home, a reading corner for father, a sewing corner for mother, a game corner for the younger ones, a radio group for the boys, may be planned. If the family find at home the comfort and hospitality they require, they do not seek it elsewhere. Well furnished corners help to satisfy these purposes for the individual members of the family may thus retire to semi-privacy without withdrawing completely from the room.

CHRISTMAS TREES?
In regard to why Christmas trees came into use, the following explanation is given:
It was the desire of the church to combat the heathen custom which prevailed at this season, Christmas carols and Christmas plays were introduced and later "Christ trees," or Christmas trees, adopted with lights and gifts, the latter in commemoration of the gifts brought to the Christ Child by the "wise men." There is a diversity of opinion as to where the Christmas tree custom originated, it being credited to both Italy and Germany.

ARMY MEET AN OLD MAN
Jimmie and his funny companions, Rubberman and Corkman, had not gone far from the cave of the Longnocks, when they saw a little old man wading about in a shallow lake. He looked much like other old men they had seen except that he was very, very short and his head was very, very long. It was so long that he was using it as a net to catch fish in. When the travelers called to him he came ashore and carefully took the fish out of his beard. He told the travelers that they were on the island of Nothing-alike, and explained that the people of one castle or village were unlike those of any other.

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THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

By Peter A. Lee
We have a fondness at a time like this. To think on other days, and hours when some sudden wonder came into our lives. Some age old spirit takes us back again—

It may be the first tree that we remember. Festooned in gayest tinsel tapestry, or some desired toy we gazed over. And prized above all earthly things, or we have memories of that year's excitement. When Dad and Mother came to school, between the holidays . . . and oh, how proud we were to introduce them both . . . especially Her!

Perhaps a sprig of fragile mistletoe, hung high upon an old-time chandelier. Can make us catch our breath, and see one girl in all the world none other half so dear . . .

So many blessings we have known, it seems that always at this time some treasured dream. The Christmas meaning is so very clear. And Time has only added emphasis. Let's speak it! Giving and receiving joy— Life holds no greater gift for us than this!

Among the Boys and Girls



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Humane Society

Superintendent of public instruction for California, Wm. John Cooper, writes as follows:
"It seems to me unnecessary to remind city and county superintendents of schools that instruction in kindness to animals is required by the statute in this state. Even if it were not required I should expect to find every modern school system making use of children's interest in pets to develop not only a sympathetic interest in other forms of life but to enlarge a child's own experience and consequently make it easier to teach reading and language."
"These are merely some of the practical reasons for interesting children in bird and animal life, both domestic and wild. As children get older, naturally the instruction will take the form of conservation of fish and game and other wild life in addition to the care of domesticated animals."

It is reported that in Macy street school, Los Angeles, humane education has been used effectively in overcoming race prejudice. Last year only Mexican, Chinese, Syrian and Italian children attended this school. In addition, this district has a part of the Los Angeles river within its borders, being a convenient place to leave puppies, kittens and other household pets. Now the children have learned to be kind, they visit the river regularly and bring in forsaken animals. One of the class rooms is used for these animals and the children share gladly in the care of the pets, carrying the small animals home at night to be cared for. During the last five years, children have taken care of 400 homeless or sick animals.

In the past it has been a hard matter to reconcile even for school room purposes the Chinese and Mexican children. At one time the Chinese children were required to leave for home ten minutes before the session's end because of constant fighting between the racial groups. Now the Chinese and Mexican children play together and serious difficulties are unknown. A continued program of humane education has brought about this desirable situation. Even cases of cruelty among the adult members are almost unknown now that the children have become imbued with this spirit of kindness to every living creature.—Jackson County Humane Society, phone 898-J-3.

Mitten Days Are Here
Happy cries from the children as they herald the season's first snowfall will send you scurrying about for mittens and mufflers, unless you have gotten them ready for war in advance. If there are several children in the family, your first problem will be to sort the mittens, match them in pairs, and examine the fingers for stray holes and snags.

When they are ready to be washed, prepare a basin of suds and lukewarm water, using soft water if possible to keep the wool fluffy and pliable. Then plunge all the articles of the same color up and down, and squeeze the water through the meshes without twisting or pulling the fabric. Rinse in clear, warm water, and place on a soft cloth to dry. If they are properly washed and dried, mittens will wear longer and give better service.

The old fashioned method of fastening each pair of mittens to a tape long enough to go around the neck and through the sleeves of the children's coats is still the most practical means devised to keep each pair in its proper place.

Are Your Curtains Dainty?
Curtains at the window are like the furrows of a woman's costume—not essential, but they add to the appearance. Ruffled trimmings, lace panels, net or gauze tie-backs, give a room a look of completeness.

Many a housekeeper who puts up curtains the first thing, thinks of taking them down for a washing the last thing. For months they hang, gathering dust and grime and soot. When they are finally taken down the housewife is astonished at their condition. Why, they didn't really look dreadfully dirty hanging up!

A good way to test the cleanliness of your curtains is to hold a clean one against those you now have up. The contrast will tell the story. Dust laden curtains are as unbecoming to a room as a soiled table is on a dress. Wash your curtains frequently and be sure of fresh, crisp daintiness at your windows.

Harmonies
The bonds that hold together the minds that think the same can stand in any weather. With unity and aim.

For every man who writes, or sees Or loves, or draws, or sings. Has learned the truth—that harmonies Are made of kindred things.

Household Hints
Cottage cheese may be made from soured milk or from butter-milk. The sour milk must be real clabber to make it the French way, which is the best way. Simply let this thick milk drip for 24 to 36 hours. When it ceases to drip, take it down. It will still be soft and will not need the addition of butter or cream. Any undesirable and superfluous moisture may be pressed out by a weight. The French serve it with fresh fruit or preserved fruit as a dessert.

Cheese is sometimes tough when made by the other method of heating the milk because the milk is heated too much. Remember that any cottage cheese should be kept covered, as contact with the air tends to toughen the curd. The cottage cheese must be well seasoned; then you may add other things to vary it. Olives, chives, nuts, pickles, jam, raisins, peppers, peanut butter, Bar le Duc, and many other things are good additions.

A Letter to Santa



What are anchovies? They are very small fish found in European waters and are put up in brine or oil, or potted for use in the form of paste and table sauces.

Watering House Plants
House plants suffer more from lack of water than from any other one thing, according to the November American Home. Truly they are not easy to keep watered in the usual way, but there is one sure way to see that they get all they need and not too much. When the soil in the pot is dry take the plant, pot and all, and set it in a pail or tub of water to the depth of the pot. Let it stay two or three hours and you will find that it will be wet just right. Never allow water to stand in the saucer under the plant. Do not keep them too wet all the time; nature alternated between wet and dry and we are quite safe if we follow nature.

Makes filling lumpy.
When washing a quilt, do not wring it. It is likely to make the filling lumpy. Moist table salt will remove egg tannish from silver, and coffee and tea stains from china.

When out of butter try using a little salad oil in scrambling eggs, substituting an equal quantity of water for the usual milk. With plenty of paprika to season it, this gives the dish a unique and agreeable taste. Use lard for greasing cake tins. The salt in lard causes the cake to burn, or stick to the tin.

Egg stains on silk can usually be removed by rubbing with common table salt. Obsolete stains on enamel pans and dishes can be removed by rubbing them with a mixture of soap and bath-brick. Onion juices will remove rust from tableware.

The quickest way to chop potatoes for the hash-browned variety is with an empty baking powder can. Bend the hollow tin handle of the dustpan to a right angle with the pan and insert a discarded broom handle. It avoids much stooping.

After threading the needle, tie a knot in the end of the thread that was last broken from the spool and the thread will not knot. A way to test the quality of coffee is to put a spoonful in a glass of cold water and add a few drops of lemon juice. If the coffee is pure it will remain on top of the water; if not, the water will become brown in color.

To enrich the earth around plants, water them with a solution consisting of 150 grains of glue to two gallons of water.

Cut a piece of asbestos paper to fit the bottom of the open. It retards the heat, saves fuel and prevents articles from burning.

When the blades are dull, run the blades across the neck of a small bottle, in the same position as though cutting off the neck of the bottle.