A Guide to Christmas Literature
Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

This is a selected list of books that can be used in grades PreK - 8.

**Picture Books**

Arthur puts a lot of time, effort and thought into his special present for Santa Claus.
*Call Number: PJ Bro*

Patrick misses Grandpa, especially at Christmas, but his mother helps him to remember happy times with Grandpa and to use what Grandpa taught him to make Christmas happy for himself and his friends.
*Call Number: PJ Caz*

The figures in a nativity scene come to life to help an old woman in need at Christmas.
*Call Number: PJ Col*

The inhabitants of a New England village never make much fuss about Christmas until a new family moves in and celebrates the holiday in a special way.
*Call Number: PJ DeP*

Ceci, a little Mexican girl is excited because she is old enough to get her own piñata for her first Christmas Posada.
*Call Number: PJ Ets*

In Cuba, in the early 1950s, a young boy and his family try not to let rebel soldiers keep them from traveling to Santiago to celebrate Christmas with their relatives. Based on a true incident in the life of the author.
*Call Number: PJ Fig*

A greedy mouse learns about sharing on Christmas Eve.
*Call Number: PJ For*
Santa Claus has his own ways of knowing more about children and toys than anyone else in the world.
**Call Number: PJ Fra**

Ten-year-old Juma and his Aunt Aida plan to surprise his Kenyan village with an appearance by Father Christmas and find that they themselves are surprised.
**Call Number: PJ Joh**

When Santa was a young man he tried all kinds of jobs from chimney sweep to postman to circus performer until he met a group of elves and found the perfect job.
**Call Number: PJ Kre**

A succession of annoyances causes Santa to wish he were at home rather than on his Christmas Eve journey.
**Call Number: PJ Kro**

When a little mouse's treasured Christmas gift is broken, Grandpa consoles her with a toy train from his own childhood.
**Call Number: PJ Mcc**

Now that both Bella and her cat are three years old, they are big enough to learn about all the wonderful things that happen at Christmas.
**Call Number: PJ McK**

Eager to see all the presents, the family comes downstairs on Christmas morning to find just one long thin box under the tree.
**Call Number: PJ Mer**

Describes the plum-purple sky, yew-green hills, silver strands of moonlight, and other colorful things which provide the setting for the birth of a black baby Jesus.
**Call Number: PJ Nik**

Yoon, a Korean American, hears about Santa Claus and Christmas at her school, but her family tells her that it is not a part of Korean tradition.

**Call Number:** PJ Rec


A Japanese boy learns of Christmas when his mother decorates a pine tree with paper cranes.

**Call Number:** PJ Say


The Grinch tries to stop Christmas from arriving by stealing all the presents and food from the village. It comes anyway. Could Christmas be more than presents?

**Call Number:** PJ Seu


Virginia and her brother are never allowed to pick first from the donation boxes at church because their father is the priest. She is heartbroken when another girl takes the coat she wants.

**Call Number:** PJ Sne


Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together. Panic ensues when hours later, she realizes the ring is missing.

**Call Number:** PJ Sot


A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

**Call Number:** PJ Van


Eric Valesquez describes his Christmas in Harlem with his Grandmother and how she introduced him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**Call Number:** PJ Vel


Despite his sister Ruby's admonitions, Max waits up on Christmas Eve to see Santa Claus coming down the chimney.

**Call Number:** PJ Wel
Juvenile Fiction

   A homeless family’s luck changes after they help an old woman who has even less than they do.
   Call Number: J Bun

   The lives of three people are changed by an old man who insists that he is Santa Claus.
   Call Number: J Dav

   A miser learns the true meaning of Christmas when three ghostly visitors review his past and foretell his future.
   Call Number: J Die

   Through his grandfather's stories, a young African American living in New York City learns how the tradition of giving gifts to the needy started.
   Call Number: J Moo

   It is almost Christmas, but Katharine’s teacher Mrs. Bingsley is unhappy. Can Katharine discover why and find a present that will cheer up her teacher?
   Call Number: J Mul

   A boy wants an evergreen tree for Christmas in this story set in the West Indies.
   Call Number: J Rah

   The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.
   Call Number: J Rob

   Six Christmas stories that portray the sensitive moods of togetherness, loss, belonging and privation.
   Call Number: J Ryl
(Grade 4-12).
Journey back in time to join Geraint in his exploits and adventures in the small Welsh village, sharing enchanting moments of humor, sadness and magic as he tells his grandson of Christmas past.
**Call Number:** J Tho

(Grade 4-8).
Set in 1957, problems at the mine threaten to ruin Christmas for Don, his family, and the rest of the town. Don’s determined dog Frank makes the holiday special for the family.
**Call Number:** J Wal

Although everyone laughs when Mr. Crockett plants a straggly pine tree in front of his house, his loving care is rewarded in time.
**Call Number:** J Zol

**Juvenile Non-Fiction**

**Activities, Plays, Poetry, and Stories**

(Grade 4-8).
The mysterious history of Saint Nicholas, his birth, life and death recounts miracles and good deeds of this remarkable man.
**Call Number:** j 398.352 Cri

A song about a poor boy whose gift to Jesus was his drumming.
**Call Number:** j 783.6 Lit

In this old English Christmas carol the friendly stable beasts tell of the gifts they have given to the newborn Jesus.
**Call Number:** j 783.65 Fri

(Grade PreK-3).
 Tells how the well-known Christmas carol, "Silent Night," first came to be written and performed in Austria in the early 1800s.
**Call Number:** j 782.28 Hod

**Call Number:** j 808.81 Chr


Retells the traditional tale of the old lady who, having missed her chance to take gifts to the newborn Christ Child, still wanders leaving gifts for all children in hopes that, one day, she will come upon Him.

**Call Number:** j 398.2 Mik


The well-known poem about an important Christmas Eve visitor.

**Call Number:** j 811.2 Moo


Friends exchange gifts such as toys, musical instruments, and holiday foods that conclude with 12 heralding angels set to the folk song Twelve days of Christmas in Spanish and English.

**Call Number:** j 782.42 Mor


A collection of favorite Christmas carols and songs.

**Call Number:** j 784.6 Raf


A young woman's true love sends her extravagant gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas.

**Call Number:** [Special Format] j 394.2663 Sab

**History and Customs**


Follows a Hispanic American family in a small New Mexican community as they prepare for and celebrate the nine-day religious festival which occurs just before Christmas.

**Call Number:** j 394.2663 Hoy


Explains the customs and traditions of Christmas and how it is celebrated worldwide.

**Call Number:** j 394.2663 Ken
Discusses the weather, customs, decorations, festivals and traditions of 12 countries.
Call Number: j 394.2663 Lan

Describes the customs, recipes, poems, and songs used to celebrate Christmas in the big plantation houses and in the slave quarters just before the Civil War.
Call Number: j 394.2663 Mck

Discusses the origins of the Christmas tree and methods of farming them.
Call Number: j 635.9 Pat

Uses the Gospels of Luke and Matthew to present the story of the birth of Jesus.
Call Number: j 226 Bib

Introduces the traditions and festivities that make Christmas special.
Call Number: j 394.2663 Tru

**Teacher Resources**

Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB 1537 .F735 2002

Call Number: Curr.Mats. GT3930 .M38 2004


Prepared by
Pat Moore
March 2015