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

Here is a selected list of children’s books about the American holiday, Thanksgiving, for grades K-8.

**Picture Books**

Refugees from a Caribbean country embark on a dangerous boat trip to America where they have a reason to celebrate Thanksgiving.

*Call Number: PJ Bun*

The first graders get tired of Anna Maria’s bossy ways during the Thanksgiving preparations.

*Call Number: PJ Coh*

When Katie breaks a gravy boat at Thanksgiving dinner, her grandmother shows her that love is more important than objects.

*Call Number: PJ Her*

David uses his imagination to find out what it would have been like to celebrate the first Thanksgiving feast.

*Call Number: PJ Kro*

School children on a field trip to Mack Nugget’s farm save the lives of eight turkeys.

*Call Number: PJ Pil*

Mrs. Madoff’s preschool class learns about Thanksgiving and puts on a play about the origins of the holiday.

*Call Number: PJ Roc*
Describes the autumn activities and traditions that November’s cooling temperatures bring.
**Call Number: PJ Ryl**

(Grades 2-4).
Irving Morris Bear, who loves to eat, learns an important lesson about Thanksgiving from his friends.
**Call Number: PJ Sha**

Two families, one that is perfect and one that is far from it, celebrate Thanksgiving in their own ways.
**Call Number: PJ Spi**

Twins Liz and Lenny along with their time-traveling grandmother visit Plymouth Plantation and celebrate a big feast with the Pilgrims and Native Americans.
**Call Number: PJ Sta**

**Fiction**

(Grades 1-3).
This story follows the activities of children in nineteenth-century New England as they prepare for the holiday while their mother is away.
**Call Number: J Alc**

(Grades 2-3).
Molly has to make a Pilgrim doll for school. She is embarrassed when her Jewish mother dresses the doll in clothing like what she wore when leaving Russia for religious freedom.
**Call Number: J Coh**

While trying to deliver a Thanksgiving invitation to an elderly lady, Jimmy and Joe find her incapacitated by an accident.
**Call Number: J Gle**
Mem presents a diary account of the trip she and her family made on the Mayflower in 1620 and their first year in the New World.
**Call Number: J Las**

Arthur goes to pick up the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner but comes back with a 260-pound chicken.
**Call Number: J Pin**

When Amanda’s grandmother dies the entire family tries to create her famous Thanksgiving meal with friends and neighbors.
**Call Number: J Ros**

When her classmate plans an elaborate Thanksgiving dinner, Katie begins to wonder if the relaxed day her family usually enjoys means they are not a “real” family.
**Call Number: J Smi**

Chester Chipmunk can’t seem to find anybody to share his Thanksgiving dinner.
**Call Number: J Wil**

**Activities, Poetry, and Stories**

Relates how Sarah Hale, a magazine editor and author, persuaded President Lincoln to transform Thanksgiving Day into a national holiday.
**Call Number: j394.2649And**

Discusses the significance of Thanksgiving, suggests various projects, activities, and recipes.
**Call Number: j394.2649 Bar**
Well known and lesser-known verses to the traditional Thanksgiving song illustrated from the grandmother’s and the journeying family’s point of view.
**Call Number: j811 Chi**

Projects and ideas for Thanksgiving, includes literature-based teaching unit, creative art projects, and unique gifts children can make.
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1140.4 T526 1996**

A collection of poems expressing Thanksgiving from a variety of sources including Native Americans and the Bible.
**Call Number: j808.81 Tha**

Thanksgiving is a holiday in the United States and Canada where people celebrate the harvest and blessings they have been given.
**Call Number: j394.2649 Pep**

Twelve comical Thanksgiving poems.
**Call Number: j811.54 Pre**

This ABC book cheerfully illuminates the history of the classic American holiday, Thanksgiving.
**Call Number: j394.2649 Vid**

The story of the first Thanksgiving told from the points of view of a Wampanoag Indian boy and an English Pilgrim boy.
**Call Number: j394.2649 Wat**
**Biography, Facts, and History**

Traces the origins and history of Thanksgiving and how the celebration has changed.
**Call Number:** j364.2649 App

Text in English and standard Latin-American Spanish explores why a day of thanks in November has become an American tradition.
**Call Number:** j394.2649 App

This book describes the actual events that took place during the three days that the Wampanoag people and the colonists came together.
**Call Number:** j394.2649 Gra

Simple text and photographs tell about thanksgiving.
**Call Number:** j394.2649 Keo

Describes a typical Narragansett Nickommoh, or harvest celebration as it has been performed since before the arrival of the first pilgrims.
**Call Number:** j394.2649 Kol

This book examines the traditions and celebrations associated with the holiday of Thanksgiving.
**Call Number:** j394.2649 Mil

This book teaches about the history and how people recognize the holiday, Thanksgiving
**Call Number:** j394.2649 Ris
Website:

(Grades PreK-12).
Written by Dr. Amanda Morris this webpage contains book reviews, activities and online resources that can be used to teach about Thanksgiving. It provides accurate information about indigenous people and avoids harmful stereotypes.
http://www.tolerance.org/blog/teaching-thanksgiving-socially-responsible-way

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