



HOLIDAY MAGIC

Selections from the Children's
Historical Collection

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS
REMEMBERED THROUGH BOOKS.
SPECIAL DAYS TO GATHER AND
SHARE MEMORIES TO COME.

December 14, 2017 – February 4, 2018
A Special Collections Exhibit
at Pequot Library

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PEQUOT
LIBRARY

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children’s Historical Collection

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Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

Thoughts



Magic comes in many forms. A rabbit out of a hat. A coin pulled from an ear. A child's first words. Magic also is found in books. What better books conjure up magical memories than those focused on children and holidays! Pequot Library happily presents "Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection" – an exhibit highlighting delightful volumes of children's book from the past – in the Perkin Gallery and Reading Room from December 14, 2017 – February 4, 2018. Children of all ages can view books, caroling music, and other holiday ephemera that show a long and distinctive collecting trend at Pequot Library. While the majority of the exhibited items remember Christmas' past, other selections bring to mind playful and poignant times across that year that all patrons can share.

Everyone wants a holiday. What are holidays? If asked, a person in London might give you the impression that she was going on vacation. Stateside, however, the answers you'll hear might have to do with long weekends and no work; or, more importantly, no homework. The first two definitions given by Merriam-Webster – the company that bought Noah Webster's famous dictionary in 1843 – are "1: holy day, and 2: a day on which one is exempt from work; specifically: a day marked by a general suspension of work in commemoration of an event". In fact, "holiday" comes from the Old English "*hāligdæg*" meaning "holy day". So, either by custom or law, certain days are set aside during which societies refrain from normal activities to celebrate, commemorate, and observe a particular occasion whether that is April Fool's Day or Independence Day.

Readng today may not be possible on 'normal' days, but holidays may allow the time for someone to sit back and enjoy a good book. Reading, too, can capture the imagination of children of all ages. When combining children and holidays, a reader's fancy is delighted by the Children's Historical Collection at Pequot Library. Based on the publication dates and the accession journals kept by the early Pequot librarians, it is clear from reviewing the collection that acquiring children's books was considered a priority. Additionally, the children's books from the earliest days of Pequot were read and enjoyed. Checkout cards still in the envelope on the back cover of many books attest to the popularity of these gems.

Red and green predominate in the present selections from the Children's Historical Collection at Pequot Library. Certainly, librarians in the past responded to requests by patrons (young and old!) to stock the Children's library with books, music, and magazines related to Christmas. In the present exhibit, the number of Christmas books demonstrate the broad interest as well as the wealth of narratives revolving around this winter holiday. Not

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to be outdone, the Children's Historical Collection also offers books on Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Primrose Day. Never heard of Primrose Day? Well then, Carolyn Haywood's book of that name will explain.

Yuletide might be a somewhat out-of-date word when Black Friday, coupons, and 24-hour store openings overcome the former activities surrounding the 12 nights of Christmas. What's more, few now talk of Twelfth Night unless you happen to sing in a choir or read Shakespeare over coffee. Let the books from the Children's Historical Collection take you back to earlier times. Enjoy a moment of nostalgia or a memory.

Christmas or whenever. Celebrate your favorite holiday with a book.

This exhibit is made possible in part through a generous gift in memory of Richard M. Carpenter and by the Constance C. Baker Rare Book Fund. We appreciate the loans made by generous patrons. We gratefully acknowledge the work of Catherine Jennings, curatorial assistant, and the support and efforts of Pequot Library volunteers and staff.



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Discussion Topics

1. Do you believe in Magic?
2. Share a memory of the Christmas / Hanukkah / Kwanzaa holidays.
3. Close your eyes. Now describe Santa.
4. If you were able to declare a new holiday, what would it be?
5. What is/was your favorite holiday book? Explain why.
6. Some holidays have religious significance. Describe some of the religious aspects of a traditional Christmas celebration.
7. Can you name the Three Wise Men?
8. Who is Dunder? Does he have other names?

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Vocabulary

Bough: any of the larger branches of a tree, for example: "Deck the halls with boughs of holly..."

Candy Cane: a hard candy in the shape of a rod (usually with stripes)

Celebration: a party or a festive event.

Conifer: a type of tree or shrub bearing cones. Pine trees are coniferous.

Festival or festivity: The word festive shares a Latin root with the word feast. At festivities, people eat, drink, and are merry.

Fragrant: pleasant-smelling. Cinnamon and cloves and allspice are a fragrant reminder of holiday baking.

Frankincense: an aromatic gum resin formerly valued for worship.

Galosh: a waterproof overshoe that protects shoes from water or snow.

Garland: adorn with bands of flowers or leaves. People also like to decorate by laying or wrapping long sections of greenery or flowers or even tinsel, called garlands.

Gold: a soft yellow malleable ductile metallic element; highly valuable.

Hanukkah: In Judaism, an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem in 165 BC.

Holiday: leisure time away from work devoted to rest or pleasure. Also: vacation.

Kwanzaa: a festival featuring African-American culture.

Menorah: a candelabrum with nine branches

Mull: heat with sugar and spices to make a hot drink. (We might mull over the idea that the word can mean "think deeply" or "simmer with sugar and spices.")

Myrrh: aromatic resin that is burned as incense and used in perfume.

Nativity: the event of being born.

Noel: from the French, period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6.

Ornament: something used to beautify.

Peppermint: comes from the red gum tree of Tasmania.

Rotund: excessively fat. Santa Claus has been described as rotund.

Serenity: the absence of mental stress or anxiety

Tranquility: an untroubled state that is free from disturbances

Wreath: a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamentation. Many people decorate their doors with wreaths of pine and holly during this season.

Yuletide: period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6.

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Suggested Reading

Reading List for Young People

Children's:

- Adler, David A. *The Story of Hanukkah*. (2011)
- Barry, Robert. *Mr. Willoughby's Christmas*. (2000)
- Herriot, James. *The Christmas Day Kitten*. (1986)
- Moore, Clement Clarke. *The Night Before Christmas*. (2005)
- Thompson, Kay. *Eloise at Christmastime*. (1999)
- Tresselt, Alvin. *White Snow Bright Snow*. (1947)
- Seuss, Dr. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. (2007)
- Van Allsburg, Chris. *Polar Express*. (1985)

Teens:

- Beil, Michael D. *The secret cellar*. (2012)
- Henry, O. *The Gift of the Magi*. (2008)


- Wood, Maryrose. *The mysterious howling*. (2010)
- Standiford, Natalie. *Confessions of the Sullivan sisters*. (2010)

Reading List for the perpetually Young



- Dobler, Lavinia G. *Customs and holidays around the world*. (2017)
- Forbes, Bruce David. *America's favorite holidays: candid histories*. (2015)
- Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Cinco de mayo: celebrating the traditions of Mexico*. (2008)
- Krasno, Rena. *Floating lanterns and golden shrines: celebrating Japanese festivals*. (2000)
- Miller, Simone (Chef), author. *The new Yiddish kitchen: gluten-free and Paleo kosher recipes for the holidays and every day*. (2016)
- Rigg, Annie. *Gifts from the kitchen: [100 irresistible homemade presents for every occasion]*. (2011)

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Timeline

Holiday	Date	Background
April Fools' Day	April 1	April Fools' Day is celebrated every year by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes.
Arbor Day	April	The first American Arbor Day was originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska, U.S., by J. Sterling Morton. On April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska.
Bird Day	May 4	A holiday established by Oil City, Pennsylvania school superintendent Charles Almanzo Babcock in 1894. It was the first holiday in the United States dedicated to the celebration of birds. Babcock intended it to advance bird conservation as a moral value.
Bloomsday	June 16	Bloomsday is a commemoration and celebration of the life of Irish writer James Joyce, during which the events of his novel <i>Ulysses</i> (which is set on 16 June 1904) are relived.
Christmas Day	December 25	 <p>An annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Various factors contributed to the selection of December 25 as a date of celebration: it was the date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar; it was about nine months after March 25, the date of the vernal equinox and a date linked to the conception of Jesus.</p>
Easter	the first Sunday after the ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or soonest after 21 March	This holiday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the <i>New Testament</i> as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary
Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha	In the Islamic lunar calendar, Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah. In the Gregorian calendar, the dates vary from year to year drifting approximately 11 days earlier each year.	Of the two Muslim feasts, Eid al-Adha is the holier and honors the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son, as an act of obedience to God's command. Eid al-Fitr celebrates the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. The lunar calendar causes both holidays to move throughout the seasons.
Employee Appreciation Day	first Friday in March	This is an unofficial holiday observed in the United States and Canada. It is a day for companies to thank their employees for their hard work and effort throughout the year.
Father's Day	third Sunday in June	In Roman Catholic countries, Father's Day is on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph. Father's Day was not celebrated in the US, outside Catholic traditions, until the 20th century. As a civic celebration in the US, it was inaugurated in the early 20th century to complement Mother's Day by celebrating fathers and male parenting. The day was made a permanent

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		national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.
Groundhog Day	February 2	 <p>Groundhog Day originated in the 1880s in the United States, responding to the folklore that the groundhog's shadow can help predict an early or late Spring. Punxsutawney Phil in Pennsylvania is a well-known forecaster.</p>
Halloween	October 31	The name is a contraction of All Hallows' Evening). It is on the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day.
Hanukkah	Starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.	The holiday commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. For eight nights and days.
Hobbit Day	September 22	Hobbit Day is the birthday of the hobbits Bilbo and Frodo Baggins, two fictional characters in J. R. R. Tolkien's popular set of books <i>The Hobbit</i> and <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> . In the books both Bilbo and Frodo were said to be born on September 22, but of different years. Bilbo was born in the year of 2890 and Frodo in the year of 2968 in the Third Age (1290 and 1368 respectively in Shire-Reckoning.)
Independence Day	 July 4	This day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 in which the original 13 colonies declared their independence from the British Empire. In 1938, Congress made Independence Day a paid federal holiday.
Kwanzaa	from December 26 to January 1	This is a week-long celebration held in the United States and in other nations of the West African diaspora and honors African heritage in African-American culture
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	third Monday of January	The idea of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by labor unions in contract negotiations. The holiday was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986, after President Ronald Reagan signed it into law as observance of Dr. King's birthday (January 15).
May Day	May 1	May Day is a public holiday started to commemorate an ancient northern hemisphere spring festival. Dances, singing, and cake are usually part of the celebrations. In the late 19th century, May Day was chosen as the date for International Workers' Day by the Socialists and Communists of the Second International to commemorate the Haymarket affair in Chicago (1886).

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Mother's Day	second Sunday in May	The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia.
New Year's Day	January 1	This is the first day of the year on the modern Gregorian calendar. Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) instituted the concept of celebrating the new year in 2000 BC around the time of the vernal equinox, in mid-March. In AD 567, the Council of Tours formally abolished January 1 as the beginning of the year.
President's Day	third Monday of February	Until the mid-1980s, Washington's birthday (February 22) and Lincoln's (February 12) were separate holidays. The holiday now unofficially recognizes all Presidents.
Primrose Day		Merry, the little girl in Carolyn Haywood's book, decides to celebrate her birthday by declaring a new holiday called Primrose Day, when her mother brings her to a garden filled with the colorful flower.
Thanksgiving	fourth Thursday of November	President George Washington declared [that Thanksgiving] on November 26 to "be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be." (October 3, 1789, New York, New York.) 

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Traditional Religious Illustrations

The season closing the year enjoys celebrations that reflect our country's rich and diverse history.



Illustrations found in the present selections show the New Testament story of the Nativity -- in a humble manger with Mary, Joseph, the Christ Child, Three Kings, the shepherds, and the star seen 'round the world.



The Hanukkah holiday, which over eight nights commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem, has depictions that focus on family traditions and games for children.



Kwanzaa, honoring African heritage in African-American culture is a week-long celebration held

in the United States. The illustrated books emphasize the importance of family.

Kimmelman, Pienkowski, Pinkney, and Van Loon are among the artists.

Visions of Santa



Close your eyes. What's your image of Santa? Is he always jolly? Chubby? Why the pipe? Does Santa really fit in a chimney? And what about Mrs. Claus?

The selections including Santa are rich in illustrations. Do readers keep an image of Santa based on the story or the drawing imagined by a particular artist?

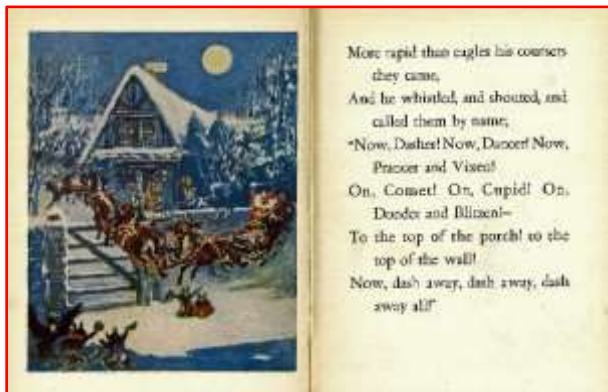
These depictions come from books by Birch, Clement, De Brunhoff (Santa and elves), Chase, and Duvoisin (Mrs. Claus). Each reflects the time in which the artist rendered the illustrations, and each is carried somewhere in our memories.



What would your illustration look like?

Dunder, Donder, or Donner?

The names of two of Santa's reindeer have traveled almost as much as Santa himself. In the original version (1823) of "The Night before Christmas", Clement C. Moore used "Dunder" and "Blixem", the Dutch naming of said reindeer. In modern Dutch spelling, these would now be "Donder" and "Bliksem". In subsequent printings, the German spelling prevailed and the reindeers were called "Donder and Blitzen". Both phrases mean "Thunder and Lightning" in English. More modern editions now name the famous reindeers "Donner and Blitzen".



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In the Gallery

The Night Before Christmas

Dunder, Donder, or Donner? Which is it?



Visit of St. Nicholas (Aunt Louisa's Big Picture Series)

by Clement Clarke Moore
New York: McLoughlin, 1869

Is this how you imagine Santa?



The Night Before Christmas

by Clement Moore

New York: Hodder & Stoughton, 1889

Joseph Cummings Chase captures a playful Santa, whose reindeer is called Dunder.



The Children's Book of Christmas

by J. C. Dier

New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco: The Macmillan Company, 1911



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A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

New York: H. S. Nichols, 1925

A happy ending to Dickens' tale is shown in a 1925 edition.



Christmas Carols

by Hendrik and Grace Willem van Loon and Castagnetta

New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1937

Charming illustrations frame the classic Christmas songs in Van Loon's collection.



The Night Before Christmas

by Clement C. Moore

New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1937



Reginald Birch's illustrations give us a classic image of Santa.

Babar and Father Christmas

by Jean De Brunhoff

New York: Random House, 1940

Babar and Santa -
- What a magical combination!



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The Golden Christmas Book

by Gertrude Crampton

New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1947

Music from Christmas standards accompany the stories, poems, and games in this Christmas collection from the 1940s.



Easter Treat

by Duvoisin

New York: Alfred A, Knopf, 1954

Mrs. Claus! The only image of such an important person!



Eloise at Christmas Time

by Kay Thompson

New York: Random House, 1958

Hilary Knight's renderings of the feisty Eloise are known worldwide. Knight captures Eloise's spirit and sense of magic.



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A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Cleveland and New York: The World Publishing Company, 1961

Searle's illustrations are appropriately dark, yet whimsical.

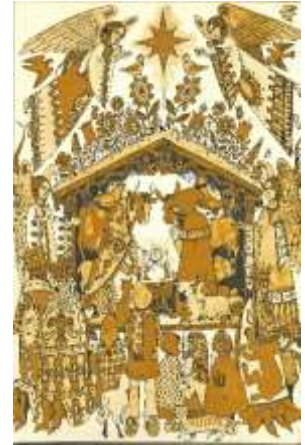


Joy to the World: Christmas Legends

by Ruth Sawyer

Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1961

This image, with a traditional religious interpretation, combines characters from the stories in Sawyer's book.



Christmas: The King James Version

by Jan Pienkowski

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984

Pienkowski illustrates his re-telling of the Bible story of the Nativity.



Santa Flipbook

by Jill Weber

Mont Vernon: Frajil Farms, Inc., 1990



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Hanukkah Lights, Hanukkah Nights

by Leslie Kimmelman

New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992

John Kimmelman captures the playfulness and tradition of the Hanukkah holiday.



Seven Candles for Kwanzaa

by Andrea Davis Pinkney

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1993

Family is at the center of Kwanzaa.



Visions of Santa

What's your view of Santa? Is he always jolly? Chubby? And what about Mrs. Claus? These illustrations come from books by Clement, De Brunhoff (Santa and elves), Chase, and Duvoisin (Mrs. Claus).



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The Night Before Christmas

One charming aspect of this book is the trim below the text. It depicts elves playing and preparing for Christmas. They make toys, help deliver presents, and nap on boughs of holly all as Santa completes his night's work as described in the story. This is one of the few versions of this text which uses the name "Donner" instead of "Dunder" or "Donder" for that particular reindeer. This version, while not dated, therefore might be more modern than the others.

Little Charley's Christmas Amusements

Philadelphia: John E. Potter & Company, 1853

Woodcut illustrations grace almost every page of this tiny book. Little Charley is away at school but returns home for Christmas. The volume is full of his activities, such as playing nine pins and building a snow pyramid.

Christmas Roses and New Year's Gift: A Present For Young People

Boston: G.W. Cottrell, 1848

The main character of "Christmas Roses" mentions that for Christmas, the Christ Child would bring them presents and toys. When her brother falls ill, she prays that the Christ Child will heal him for Christmas, and a spirit appears with flowers that heal him. The poem "Winter's Song" expresses the changes in scenery that take place as winter and the holiday season approaches.

Visit of St. Nicholas (Aunt Louisa's Big Picture Series)

by Clement Clarke Moore

New York: McLoughlin, 1869

The illustrations are remarkably detailed and vibrantly colored. There are traces of both ink and pigment which seem to be applied directly to the page, given their tactility. While Nast is credited with the image of Santa, his Santa is more burly and frightening than most. The use of the name "Donder" instead of "Dunder" (the original name) for the reindeer might be evidence that Moore plagiarized the work. It is possibly a misunderstanding on Moore's part because he did not speak Dutch, which is the root of Dunder.

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Child Life: A Collection of Poems

by J. G. Whittier

Boston: James R. Osgood and Company, 1878

J. G. Whittier sought to bring together a number of poems for children which demonstrate literary excellence while remaining comprehensible to most children. In doing so, he responded to deficiencies he saw in juvenile literature. In "A Little Girl's Fancies" a girl speaks of how little flowers "love [her] so" and "moss [likes her] head to rest on [it]." In turn, she expresses how she and nature share a "true love."

The Birds' Christmas Carol

by Kate Douglas Wiggin

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1886

Beautifully illustrated by Katharine R. Wireman, this book is reminiscent of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in that the story tells of Carol Bird, a sickly girl whose parents worry will never have the strength of her boisterous brothers. A sad but poignant ending is accompanied by the sweet song of Christmas carols.

Five Little Peppers and How They Grew

by Margaret Sidney

Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1881

On their mother's birthday, the Pepper children try to use their few provisions in order to scrounge up a cake. Despite it getting burnt, "Mumsie" appreciates their effort. Their love for Mumsie trumps their difficult conditions, allowing them to still celebrate a wonderful birthday. The older Pepper children ask their mother if they can forgo Thanksgiving in order to save money for a proper Christmas celebration for the little Pepper children.

Snap-Dragons: A Tale of Christmas Eve

by Juliana Horatia Ewing

London: Society For Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1888

Given by Mr. Edward J. Bedford

Historic children's writer Roger Lancelyn Green called Ewing's texts the "first outstanding children's novels." This makes her an important figure in developing the canon of children's literature. In "Snap-Dragons" children play the titular Christmas Eve game in which one tries to take raisins from a bowl of brandy set aflame. Then, the boy sees a dragon come out of the flames. This fantastic scene shows the magic of Christmas Eve night.

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The Night Before Christmas

by Clement Moore

New York: Hodder & Stoughton, 1889

Clement Moore was a professor of Greek Literature and Biblical Learning. The title was originally "A Visit From St. Nicholas," published anonymously in 1823. However, the authorship is contentious, as some believe handwriting samples attribute authorship to Henry Livingston, Jr. This story is a hallmark of Christmastime, often recited aloud on Christmas Eve night before bedtime. The happy font and the popping black, white, and red color palette complement the cheerful tone and festive nature of the story.

The Story of the Other Wise Man

by Henry van Dyke

New York: Harper & Brothers, 1895

A Princeton alumni, van Dyke (1852 – 1933) worked with Woodrow Wilson as a diplomat at the beginning of World War I. His literary legacy includes this alternate narrative of the Three Kings. Artaban, the 4th Magi, comes from Persia and carries a sapphire, a ruby, and a "pearl of great price". He misses the caravan of Magi and cannot cross the desert with only a horse.

Christmas Every Day

by W. D. Howells

New York: Harper & Brothers, 1892

Given by Town of Fairfield

As children might wish, Christmas should happen every day. This little story along with tales of turkeys and pumpkins make this book a year-round treat.

The Poems of a Child

by Julia Cooley

New York: R.H. Russell Publisher, 1904

Given by Mr. Fredrick Sturges

Richard Le Gallienne's introduction frequently mentions Cooley's connection to Connecticut's local history and landscape. This makes her poetry an interesting study of Connecticut's culture and natural beauty through the eyes of a child. A number of the poems show how a child views the passage of time through holidays. "To My Valentine" has a sense of urgency to share love in time for the holiday while "New Year's Day" remarks on nostalgia for the past and hope for the future.

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Werner's Readings and Recitations: No. 40. Thanksgiving Celebrations

by Stanley Schell, ed.

New York: Edgar S. Werner & Co., 1907

Used in schools for classroom activities, this compilation includes poems, songs, stories, and games related to Thanksgiving, such as the poem "Where the Mince Pie Grows" in which elves take Little Sam Sugartooth to the land of mince pies.

Why the Chimes Rang

by Raymond Macdonald Alden

Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1909

The fairy-tale qualities make this story unique in terms of holiday literature. However, the pious and moralizing nature of the story about Christmas church-going and charity fit into the history of children's literature as educational and religious. This story reiterates the importance of piousness and charity during Christmastime.

The Angel and the Star

by Ralph Connor

New York, Chicago, Toronto, London, Edinburgh:
Fleming H. Revell Company, 1908

The Angel and the Star is unique insofar as it tells the narrative of the birth of Christ and the journey of the Three Wise Men rather than having a character in a children's story tell it. It has a more explicitly religious/educational purpose. A quote which stands out is "I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people" (15). While this quote comes from God in reference to the birth of Jesus, "good tidings" is a common phrase which expresses the universally joyful nature of a

The Children's Book of Christmas

by J. C. Dier

New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco: The
Macmillan Company, 1911

The opening letter tells earnestly how Santa Claus is not just a person who comes on Christmas, but a belief in the good of man. This Christmas letter reminds us that all the beauty in the world cannot be proven to exist for certain, and yet we believe it. This anthology offers a number of Christmas stories from all over the world, like Mexico, Japan, and France. Many of the countries share a nativity procession.

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Christmas Tales and Christmas Verse

by Eugene Field

New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912

Given by Dorothy S. De Witt

Eugene Field, writer of poems and humor essays, was often called "The Poet of Childhood." He attended and dropped out of many colleges, playing more practical jokes than studying. His father was Dred Scott's attorney in the landmark lawsuit. Field's "Three Kings of Cologne" are shown as white kings from Western Europe, yet the Bible claims they came to Bethlehem from the Middle East. T

Good Stories for Great Holidays

by Frances Jenkins Olcott

Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914

Some holidays presented in this volume are well known with recognizable traditions, like Christmas and Easter. However, the book also has some lesser known holidays, like Bird Day. "A Girl's Valentine Charm" describes a girl's rituals to ensure she marries her valentine. These rituals, (eating boiled egg shells, etc.), are not Valentine's tradition. Instead, they show the historical pressure young girls faced to find a husband.

Children's Singing Games Old and New

by Mari Ruef Hofer

Chicago: A. Flanagan Company, 1914

"The Christmas Wreath", one of several stories, does not tell children a story or moral about holidays. Instead it gives them instructions on how they can sing and dance with holly and wreaths during Christmas. While Christmas is the only holiday mentioned explicitly, there are still events and places that are memorialized and celebrated with the songs and dances in the book.

Happy Tales for Storytime

by E.L. and A.M. Skinner

New York, Cincinnati, Chicago: American Book Company, 1918

These tales feature non-human subjects. For example, one tells the story of a lost kitten who needs the help of woodland creatures to meet Santa Claus and be given away as a Christmas gift to a little girl. Another tale tells the iconic story of "The Little Engine That Could," but in a holiday context. The "pony engine" finds joy in being able to bring the children their train full of Christmas gifts.

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The Springtide of Life: Poems of Childhood

by Algernon Charles Swinburne

London: William Heinmann, 1918

Swinburne was a widely known poet and literary critic in late 19th century. Swinburne believes the birth of a child outweighs any season or holiday in terms of beauty. He mentions that "flowers wherewith May crowned us/Fall ere June be crowned/Children blossom round us/All the whole year round".

Fourth Book of Songs

by Robert Foresman

New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta:
American Book Company, 1925

Dr. Charles G. Miller

Many of the songs listed for certain holidays are not explicitly related to that holiday but are still appropriate. For example, "God's Love" is not about New Year's Day, but the themes of moonlight continuing to shine and God's ever-present love relate to the passage of time. "The First Tulip" is listed under Songs for Easter. Not only does the blooming tulip conjure up Spring-time joy, but the image of a flower blossoming also implies new life and resurrection when viewed in the context of the Easter holiday.

The Bobbsey Twins at the County Fair

by Laura Lee Hope

New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1922

One of the main characters, Flossie, compares the delight of summertime activities and gatherings such as picnics and fairs to the joys of Christmas morning.

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

New York: H. S. Nichols, 1925

Given by John Garnett Whitham, Jr.

The classic tale is actually a "Ghost Story of Christmas," given that ghost stories were historically reserved for Halloween. Therefore, Dickens mixes the frightfulness of Halloween with the joy of Christmas.

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Christmas Carols

by Hendrik and Grace Willem van Loon and Castagnetta

New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1937

This song book contains a number of notable Christmas carols that have remained unchanged through the years, like "Silent Night, Holy Night" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Just as with the children's fiction, they denote the religious aspect of the holiday. Hendrik Willem van Loon was a historian and author who often illustrated his own books. In addition to writing children's books, he wrote political arguments against Nazism. Grace Castagnetta was a musician and a singer famous for her Christmas albums.

Babar and Father Christmas

by Jean De Brunhoff

New York: Random House, 1940

Babar offers to take Santa to Elephant Country for vacation upon hearing of his exhaustion. This is a more human portrayal of Santa because he is shown relaxing and resting, whereas he is usually more magical and mysterious in children's literature. In a surprising turn of events, a dog helps Babar to track down Santa after a number of delightful mishaps. This search for Santa is led by Babar's desire to celebrate Christmas, but it also reflects children's curiosity surrounding Santa's existence.

The Night Before Christmas

by Clement C. Moore

New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1937

With illustrations by Reginald Birch, this version joins the "Donner-Dunder" question; that is, what happened to the words of the famous tale of Santa over time. Is his reindeer called Donner, Dunder, or Dunder?

The Saturdays

by Elizabeth Enright

New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., 1941

Given by Town of Fairfield Conn.

This charming book is not about any one holiday in particular. As the four Melendy children pool their allowances together to take turns spending the total on their perfect Saturday afternoon, they each make their own holiday in their perfect day. Thus, the children equate holidays and weekends.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

Primrose Day

by Carolyn Haywood

New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1942

The main character Merry is sent away to America to live with relatives while her father and mother contribute to the war effort in England in the 1940's. Therefore, the book explores family separation as well as adaptation from English to American culture through the eyes of a child. On Merry's birthday, her mother takes her out to the primrose fields where they have a picnic and gather flowers. Her mother turns her birthday into a holiday called "Primrose Day," and they establish their own special traditions for celebration.

The Golden Christmas Book

by Gertrude Crampton

New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1947

Upon opening the first page, a large tissue paper pop-up Christmas tree spreads out across the book. In addition to Christmas stories, riddles, and songs, the book features instructions on "Good-Luck Walnuts" to tell children's fortune and help them make wishes.

A Christmas Tree for Lydia

by Elizabeth Enright

New York, Toronto: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., 1947

In a comedic moment, the character Lydia at 3 years old was certain that Santa Claus was Jesus's father. This is a funny example of how children often confuse religion and holiday lore when they are presented together at Christmastime.

Now It's Fall

by Lois Lenski

New York: Henry Z. Walck, Inc., 1948

Lois Lenski was the author and illustrator of over 98 children's books, poems, and short stories. She received a Newberry Medal for her 1945 realistic fiction book, *Strawberry Girl*. One lovely aspect of the book is the color scheme. The book's cover, text, and illustrations are all presented in fall colors: orange-red, yellow, and brown.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

The Saint Nicholas Anthology

by Henry Steele Commager

New York: Random House, 1948

As in the other anthologies, there's a wide variety of subjects and sources: holidays like Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are present along with stories by Charles Dickens and Laura Ingalls Wilder.

The Second St. Nicholas Anthology

by Henry Steele Commager

New York: Random House, 1950

This anthology contains a number of children's tales and poems, some related to Christmas. "The Peterkins' Christmas Tree" tells the humorous tale of a family who picks out a tree too tall for their living room and adjusts the ceiling height to accommodate it.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

by Ilonka Karasz

New York, Evanstone, London: Harper & Row, 1949

This book presents the traditional Christmas carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." As the pages turn, words fill up the pages bottom to top, and at the end the page is full. It is also interesting that the book uses pastel colors rather than the typical green and red holiday color scheme.

Visions of St. Nick (In Action)

by Louise Dyer Harris, Ed.

New York: Phillips Publishers, Inc., 1950

A lovely pop-up book providing traditional images of Santa and Christmas.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

Adventures in Science with Bob and Don

by Harry Carpenter, et al.

Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1953

Vignettes from the boys' activities around the year provide narratives and instructions for children. For example, the "birds" Christmas tree they make has suet, nut cakes, and popcorn strings, as well as berries and seeds.

Eloise at Christmas Time

by Kay Thompson

New York: Random House, 1958

While Eloise "zippity jingles" all over the Plaza Hotel writing on the walls, decorating thermostats, and causing chaos, she nonetheless spreads Christmas cheer by distributing personalized gifts to the staff and singing carols on each floor. Eloise's status as the only child in a hotel full of adults is crucial to the book. She becomes an archetype for childhood's pure Christmas excitement and holiday cheer, turning the story into a Christmas carol with phrases like "ho ho ho and jiggeldy pin

Easter Treat

by Duvoisin

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1954

The author's illustrations add to the charm of this story of Santa wanting a vacation from toy-making. Santa promises Mrs. Claus that he will travel IN-COG-NI-TO. It's Eastertime and Santa delights in the flowers and lovely weather. He draws a crowd and is arrested by the police! But the children in the crowd recognize him and give him great hugs and kisses. Quite happily, Santa returned home with presents for Mrs. Claus.

The Bobbsey Twins and the Mystery at Snow Lodge

by Laura Lee Hope

New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1960

The book explores the importance of family for Christmas, as the Bobbseys gather in a snow-lodge to celebrate Christmas. Furthermore, the twins solve the mystery of the lodge's closing, which resolves the conflict between an estranged uncle and nephew. In the chapter "Three Santas," the Bobbsey twins celebrate the importance of giving around Christmas time. While riding in a sleigh like Santa, Freddie gives some of his own toys away while helping a family friend distribute gifts to local children in need.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

The Year of the Christmas Dragon

by Ruth Sawyer

New York: Viking Press, 1960

Given by Pequot School P.T.A.

This book has a remarkable wealth of imagery. The illustrations on almost every page present the lush landscape of both China and Mexico with delicate attention to detail. When Pepe finds the dragon in Mexico, his green scales and red wings immediately conjure up the image of Christmas.

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Cleveland and New York: The World Publishing Company, 1961

While the 1925 copy of *A Christmas Carol* has a cover decorated with gilded holly for Christmas, this copy has dark and brooding illustrations, by Searle, more suited to Halloween. The deep indigo, smokey grey, and seething green give the ghastly Scrooge a creepiness befitting his enmity. In contrast to Scrooge's ghastly and bitter representation, the children portrayed in Searle's illustrations are cheerier. Their jolly round faces and warm smiles convey the optimism and good tidings of Christmastime which ultimately define the moral of t

The Little Juggler

New York: Hastings House, 1961

This legend has a uniquely religious take on the Christmas holiday. Instead of families coming together to celebrate Christmas traditions, it features a young street performer who is taken in by monks during the chilly holiday season. Upon watching the monks craft Christmas offerings for the Christ Child and the Virgin Mary, Barnaby is disappointed that he does not have the talent to make a gift. Therefore, he does what he can and juggles as his Christmas offering.

Joy to the World: Christmas Legends

by Ruth Sawyer

Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1961

Stories from Arabia, Serbia, Ireland, and Spain make up this charming book. The illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman add international flavor.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

The Bobbsey Twins' Adventure in Washington

by Laura Lee Hope

New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1963

The book features an interesting element of patriotism, as the Bobbsey twins and their friends play imaginary astronaut games. Given that this book was published at the height of the Space Race, this exemplifies childhood understandings of American exceptionalism. The twins solve two mysteries: one concerning a spacecraft engineer's stolen blueprints, and another about colonial china dishes from Mount Vernon. Their spring vacation misadventures lead them to aid in the space race and discover America's history.

The Hardy Boys: The Mystery of Cabin Island

by Franklin W. Dixon

New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1966

Franklin W. Dixon was a pseudonym for Leslie McFarlane, who was a member of the Stratemeyer Syndicate, the same organization responsible for The Bobbsey Twins Series. The Hardy boys are invited to spend Christmas vacation at Cabin Island, a private retreat belonging to a wealthy acquaintance. They encounter curiously unfriendly characters and many of their belongings are stolen as they search for lost antique medals.

Paddington at Large

by Michael Bond

Boston: The Riverside Press, 1963

In "Trouble at the Bargain Basement" Paddington is excited to have been entrusted with Christmas shopping for the family. Paddington considers the preparation for Christmas day (like shopping) an event worthy of celebration and joy in and of itself. "Paddington and the Christmas Pantomime" is a story which explores the tradition of the Christmas pageant. Rather than a offering a moral on Christmas, it simply tells of Paddington's comedic and unpredicted burst into the middle of a Christmas play.

The Plymouth Thanksgiving

by Leonard Weisgard

New York: Double Day & Company, 1967

The tales present some interesting family dynamics. For example, one reads that Stephen Hopkins brought children from his former wife, along with his current wife. One can also see how many servants each family brought. This book also features a number of historical documents. For example, Captain John Smith's map from 1614 shows the settlers' understanding of the New World's geography. Additionally, the list of "Passengers on the Mayflower" describes those settlers.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

Christmas: The King James Version

by Jan Pienkowski

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984

Jan Pienkowski was a notable children's book creator who spent his childhood in Nazi-occupied Poland. He was nominated twice for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest honor for children's book creators. Pienkowski uses rich greens, oranges, purples, and blues. These deep colors breathe life into the illustrations. The black silhouettes are not detailed, but they spark the imagination of the reader by allowing them to fill in the detail themselves.

The Story of Hanukkah

by Amy Ehrlich

New York: Penguin Books, Inc., 1989

The author recounts how Judah and his brothers decreed that the eight days of rededication of the Temple should be observed each year. A candle is lit each night in remembrance.

The First Christmas

by Tomie de Paola

Toronto: General Publishing Co., 1984

This vibrant pop-up book describes in traditional fashion the story of the Nativity.

Santa Flipbook

by Jill Weber

Mont Vernon: Frajil Farms, Inc., 1990

In this cute flipbook, Santa flies down the chimney to deliver presents to little boys and girls as you turn the pages. It features a typical Christmas color scheme of green and red and jolly Christmas imagery like ornamented trees and candy canes.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

Hanukkah Lights, Hanukkah Nights

by Leslie Kimmelman

New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992

Illustrated by the author's husband, John, Kimmelman's book offers a charming overview of Hannukkah, centered on families and the games, activities, and love they share.

Seven Candles for Kwanzaa

by Andrea Davis Pinkney

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1993

With lovely illustrations, the book explains Kwanzaa as an American holiday inspired by African traditions. The holiday is not meant as a substitute for Christmas, and does not have religious or political principles.

A Great Miracle Happened There: A Chanukah Story

by Karla Kuskin

New York: Willa Perlman Books, 1993

Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. The book provides children with historical background, recounting the despotic rule of Antiochus Epiphanes over the Isrealites. After winning a brutal battle, the Isrealites needed to make their Temple holy and clean again. Miraculously the tiny bit of oil that remained lasted for eight nights, a feat which Jews celebrate by lighting a menorah for eight nights.

Kwanzaa: Why We Celebrate it the Way We Do

by Martin & Kate Hintz

Mankato: Capstone Press, 1996

The authors explain that Kwanzaa celebrates a race of people, who give gifts, make vows for the New Year, feast together, and light candles.

Holiday Magic: Selections from the Children's Historical Collection

Ramadan: Holiday Celebrations

by Kieran Walsh

Vero Beach: Rourke Publishing LLC, 2003

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast, that is, they do not eat or drink during the daylight hours. This little book shows how families around the world observe Ramadan.

Ramadan and Id al-Fitr

by Dianne M. MacMillan

Berkeley Heights: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2008

Eid al-Fitr is one of two holy feasts in the Muslim calendar. This celebrates the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha is the holiest feast on the Muslim calendar. This day commemorates the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son, as an act of obedience to God's command.

Christmas Time

by Esther Schenk

Chicago: Lyons & Carnahan, 1954

All day long everyone was happy in this reader typical of the 1950s.

St. Nicholas Magazine

by Eric J. Bender, ed.

New York: American Education Press, 1933

This issue is for December 1933. The magazine was founded in 1873. Stories, poems, puzzles, and word games are the main-stay. Children can send in letters as well as win prizes for thematic contests. Advertisements are directed to grown-ups (Buy the World Book Encyclopedia so you can answer your children's questions) and children (Chicago Flying Scout Roller Skates).