2007
Good Youth Books for Gifts
Pre-Readers and Those Just Beginning to Read

Global Babies
Global Fund for Children, ISBN 9781580891745
Delightful photos of baby faces from regions throughout the world coupled with a simple text and an inclusive message that baby love is universal.

Look at You!: A Baby Body Book
Kathy Henderson, illustrated by Paul Howard, ISBN 9780763627454
This book celebrates all the milestones of baby and toddler life with warm watercolor and pencil illustrations of a multicultural cast of youngsters doing all of the things they do best.

Elephant and Piggie series
by Mo Willems, ISBNs 9781423102977, 9781423102953, 9781423106869, 9781423106876
The action in Willems' cleverly simple first reader series consists of conversations between two earnest, but easily confused friends. New readers will enjoy the sly humor and parents will appreciate Willems departure from the standard first reader fare.

The Gift of Verse

Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry
collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters, illustrated by Polly Dunbar, ISBN 9780763631413
Beautifully illustrated in bold patterns and child-like pastels, this is a perfect first poetry book, pulling together simple poems by some of the biggest names in children's verse.
Good Sports: Rhymes About Running, Jumping, Throwing and More
Jack Prelutsky, illustrations by Chris Raschka, ISBN 9780375837005
Poetry that celebrates the fact that sports can be fun for all kids, whether you are really good at them or just playing for the fun of it.

Bronzeville Boys and Girls
Gwendolyn Brooks, illustrated by Faith Ringgold, ISBN 9780060295066
These poems, first published in 1956 and newly illustrated by Faith Ringgold, each feature a different child who is both a special resident of the Bronzeville neighborhood in Chicago, and a piece of everyone who was ever a child.

Books that Inform…and Entertain

Face to Face with Grizzlies
Joel Sartore, ISBN 9781426300516
Fabulous photographs of this majestic creature coupled with a conversational text make this book by Lincoln resident, and National Geographic photographer Sartore, especially appealing. Includes information about how to help save this bear and other endangered species.

Dogs and Cats
Steve Jenkins, ISBN 9780618507672
Jenkins flip-book format- read it from one side and it’s about dogs, flip it over and felines are featured- employs cut and torn paper collage to create this compendium of facts about the creatures so many of us share our lives with.

A Second Is a Hiccup: A Child’s Book of Time
Hazel Hutchins, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton, ISBN 9780439831062
Units of time are explained in rhyming verses using the rhythms of family life and the seasons to make these concepts understandable.
The Holidays

**N is for Navidad**
Susan Middleton Elya and Merry Banks, illustrated by Joe Cepeda, ISBN 978081185205-0
This rhyming alphabet book captures the traditions of many Latino families as they prepare for the Christmas season - complete with glossary definitions of the Spanish words.

**The Nutcracker**
Susan Jeffers
ISBN 9780060743871
A shortened version of the famous E.T.A. Hoffman story combines the well-known balletic scenes into the text, making this a beautiful one-sitting read-aloud.

**Judy Moody and Stink: The Holly Joliday**
Megan McDonald, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
ISBN 9780763632373
Precocious Judy and her annoying little brother, Stink, star in their first full-color adventures featuring long wish lists, a holiday play and a dream of snow.

**Olivia Helps with Christmas**
Ian Falconer
ISBN 9781416907862
Young fans of Olivia, and their parents and grandparents, will be eager to share the holidays with Olivia and her family as the forever-wait for Christmas morning is punctuated by many humorous mishaps.

**Special Picture Books**

**1,2,3 A Child's First Counting Book**
Alison Jay, ISBN 978052547836-2
Counting to ten and back again, each number features elements from famous fairy tales - three angry bears, seven marching dwarfs - leading readers to the original tales for more reading fun.
The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County
Janice Harrington, illustrated by Shelley Jackson, ISBN 9780374312510
Nebraska native Harrington's energetic text coupled with Jackson's bold fabric and photo collage illustrations of a young girl engaged in barnyard pursuit make this story a rollicking good read-aloud.

Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella
Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, ISBN 9780805079531
Using fabulous folk-art like illustrations and evocative language, author and illustrator have combined elements from 17 different versions of the Cinderella tale into one seamless retelling chock-full of fine cultural details from the many varied versions of this famous story.

Teens on Your List

Johnny Cash: A Twentieth Century Life
Anne Niemark, ISBN 9780670062157
Cash's tumultuous life and career is legendary, captured in films such as Walk the Line. This biography will give teens an understanding why this man is such a musical icon.

Woe Is I Jr.: The Younger Grammarphobes Guide to Better English: In Plain English
Patricia T. O'Connor, drawings by Tom Stiglich, ISBN 9780399243318
An utterly entertaining and painless guide to grammar- what's right, what's wrong, and why. Written and illustrated with humor, this is a great gift for a teen, especially one heading off to college.
The Regifters
Mike Carey, illustrations by Sonny Liew, art by Marc Hempel, ISBN 97814012 and

The Plain Janes
Cecil Casteloucci, illustrated by Jim Rugg, ISBN 9781401211158
DC Comics new Minx series offers an alternative for teen girls with these two graphic novels featuring girls who are smart, assertive and make things happen.

Epic
Conor Kostick, ISBN 978067006792
Sure to draw in teen boys, Kostick has created a future in which the “real” world and the virtual world meld and characters must play a life or death video game with many unanticipated risks.