

## **Christmas Books for the Very Young**

Compiled by Janet Lloyd

### **Animal's Christmas Carol** by Helen Ward

Many different animals come to bestow their own special gifts on the newborn Christ Child in this re-imagined version of the song, "The Friendly Beast." Warm illustrations make this a wonderful choice for young children. Ages 2-5.

### **Carl's Christmas** by Alexandra Day

The words "Take good care of the baby, Carl" are about the only words in Day's books about the lovable rottweiler. He donates a basket of goodies to the needy (the baby contributes his hat), then lends his "voice" to a group of carolers. A great board book for the youngest readers. Ages 1-3

### **Cat in the Manger** by Michel Foreman

A moving retelling of the Christmas story as seen through the eyes of one little cat whose home is chosen for the birth the baby Jesus. A wondrous look at a wondrous birth. Ages 3-5

### **Christmas Camel** by Nancy Winslow Parker

You know the story of the three wise men but do you know about the camels who carried them? This is the story of one of the camel's, Humphrey, and his long, cold journey to Bethlehem. Humphrey loses his blanket and schemes to get a new one. But when the party reaches the stable, Humphrey is so drawn to the love surrounding Baby Jesus that he finds himself selflessly giving his new blanket to the Christ child. Ages 4-8.

### **Christmas in the Barn** by Margaret Wise Brown

This larger, full-color edition of the 1952 nativity classic illustrated by Caldecott Honor artist Diane Goode carries all the charm and spirit of the original. Perfect for the youngest child in your family. Ages 2-5

### **Claude the Dog** by Dick Gackenbach

With minimal words but lots of the holiday spirit, Claude shows us all the true meaning of Christmas. The illustrations are a perfect fit for the story and will appeal to all. Ages 2-6

### **How Many Miles to Bethlehem?** by Kevin Crossley-Holland

A lively donkey, dignified wise men, and glorious angels are the focus of this wondrous look at the first Christmas. They are given new life by

acclaimed poet and novelist Kevin Crossley-Holland, who links their tales into a chain of voices revealing the miracle and meaning of Christmas. A read-aloud-treasure. Ages 4-8

**It's Christmas** by Jack Prelutsky (Easy Reader)

Christmas is coming! And from choosing the perfect tree to receiving a gift of underwear from a relative, these twelve easy-to-read poems treat readers to a funny and festive look at Christmas. A perfect pick for the beginning reader in your life. Ages 4-7

**Nativity** by Julie Vivas

This whimsically illustrated story of the Nativity showcases the human side to Mary's story. It includes the Angel Gabriel delivering the news to her, the exhausting journey with Joseph to Bethlehem, and the deliverance of the baby Jesus. The illustration of the angel will be sure to make you laugh and rethink your image of just what an angel is! Ages 3-8

**Night Tree** by Eve Bunting

In the moonlight in the quiet forest, a young boy and his family decorate their favorite tree with popcorn, apples, tangerines, and sunflower-seed balls as a gift for the animals of the woods. Beautiful illustrations make this an all time favorite with adults and children alike. Ages 3-6

**Silent Night** by Juliet Groom

The familiar Christmas carol comes alive in this beautifully illustrated story. A perfect choice to read Christmas Eve. Ages 3-8

**Story of Christmas** by Vivian French

This simple retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus in board book format captures all the wonder and excitement of the first-ever Christmas Day and is perfect for very young listeners. Ages 1-3

**Wombat Divine** by Mem Fox

Wombat has wanted to be in the Nativity play for as long as he can remember. Finally he is old enough to try out. However when the audition day finally comes the first part goes to someone else. So does the next part and the next and the next. Will there be a part left for him? Ages 3-7