

Christmas Books for Grades 3-5

Compiled by Janet Lloyd

Angels and Other Strangers by Katherine Paterson

A minister, trying to help a boy find his father, winds up in jail on Christmas Eve. A mother copes with the death of her infant. A father searches for his runaway son. A widower takes in an outspoken foster child who tests the limits of his generosity. In unexpected ways that show the true meaning of the Christmas story, this collection will be a welcomed addition to any family's library.

A Christmas Story: The Book That Inspired the Hilarious Classic Film by Jean Shepherd

This book gathers together the gems from the 1983 film of the same title. Here we find Ralphie shocked to discover that his decoder ring is really a device to promote Ovaltine, that he is capable of unnerving savagery while fighting the local bully and of most importance to Ralphie, we see his unstoppable campaign to get Santa to give him a Red Ryder carbine action 200-shot range model air rifle. Who cares that the whole adult world is telling him, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid"? He wants that rifle!

Christmas With Anne and Other Stories by L.M. Montgomery

Join Anne of Green Gables as she delights in receiving the dress of her dreams, the joy of a young woman reunited with her long lost brother on Christmas Eve, and the surprise of a trio of sisters who inadvertently end a family feud by arriving at the wrong uncle's house for Christmas dinner.

Clown of God by Tomi dePaola

In this retelling of the old French legend, a juggler offers to the Christ Child the only Christmas gift he has. The illustrations are an integral part of the story creating movement and vitality. The Italianate aspects of the setting are beautifully realized." This book is stunning in word and in illustration.

What Child Is This? by Carolyn Clooney

Eight-year-old Katie, an emotionally starved foster child, writes a wish on a paper bell that will be hung on a Christmas tree in a local restaurant. There, members of the community can choose a request and give a gift to a needy child. However, Katie doesn't ask for toys or clothing, she wishes for a family. On Christmas Eve When Matt tells Katie that her wish will not come true, the devastated girl runs out into a blizzard, setting off a chain

of events that brings about a resolution befitting a holiday tale.

Witness by Robert Westall

On a bitter winter night in the land of Jordan, a beautiful golden cat tries to hide from the wind. Lost and alone, she is desperate to find a safe place to give birth to her kittens. At last she finds a stable and takes shelter inside with a man and his gentle wife, who, like the cat, is about to give birth. The cat is witness to the arrival of the Christ child and forms a unique bond with the Holy Family. Told from Joseph's point of view this is a great choice for Dad's to read on Christmas Eve.