

Christmas Books for Grades 1-3

Compiled by Janet Lloyd

Amahl and the Night Visitors by Carlo Menotti

Since its first performance on Christmas Eve, 1951, as a one act opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* has taken its place with *A Christmas Carol* as a holiday music classic. The story tells of the night the Three Kings, following the star to Bethlehem, stop for shelter at the home of Amahl, a poor, crippled shepard boy who lives with his widowed mother. Amahl offers his own simple gift to the Christ Child. And then a miracle happens. Also available with the music as a CD and a DVD. Grades 1-adult

December by Eve Bunting

Simon and his mom don't have much just a cardboard house they built for themselves, a tiny Christmas tree, and a picture of an angel pinned to one wall. On Christmas Eve they take in a frail stranger who needs a place to keep warm, and the next morning Simon wakes early to find that the woman has vanished. Instead, he sees December, the angel from the picture, with her wings fanned out over their cardboard house. Could she be real? Grades 1-3

Huron Carol adapted by Ian Wallace

The Huron Carol was written by Father Jean de Brébeuf, a French Catholic priest who settled among the Huron people in the early 1600s. Ian Wallace brings his beautiful landscapes and cultural sensitivity to this beautiful and unusual Christmas song. Grades 1-adult

Miracle of the First Poinsettia by Joanne Oppenheim

In this book readers are transported to Old-World Mexico to a young girl whose trust leads her straight into a miracle. A beautiful look at Mexican customs and culture. Grades 1-3

Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto

Maria was feeling very grown-up on Christmas Eve as she helped her mother prepare the tamales for Christmas dinner. When she slipped her mother's diamond ring onto her finger, she only meant to wear it for a minute. But suddenly, the ring was gone, and there were 24 tamales that just might contain the missing ring. But how will Maria find the one that holds the ring? Grades 1-3

True Gift by Patricia MacLachlan

All year long Lily and Liam look forward to Christmas on their grandparents' farm. They walk to the library, trim the tree, and give gifts. But this year, thanks to a white cow alone in the meadow, things will be different. This Christmas, Lily and Liam will find out the meaning of a true gift. Grades 2-3

Uncle Vova's Tree by Patricia Polacco

Christmastime is special at Uncle Vova's house. Laughing and singing, dancing, sleigh rides, and trimming the tree that he and Svetlana planted when they first came to America. But when Vova is gone, to the surprise of everyone, the miracle of his tree and the memories of him only grow. Grades 1-3

Witness by Robert Westall

On a bitter winter night in the land of Jordan, a 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 must for Dad's to read on Christmas Eve. Grades 1-adult