

Lower Elementary Birthday Book Wish List

Updated January 20, 2011

Many parents have asked for suggestions for appropriate “birthday books” to donate. This is a list of books that we would like to have added to Thacher’s library. If none of these appeals to you, factual books about animals, foreign countries, or history are always welcome.

To avoid donating a duplicate, you can check whether or not the library already has a copy of any book by visiting the school website (thacherschool.org). The library page has a link to our catalog of current holdings, as well as the current version of the wish list. Please feel free to contact Joy or Andrea with any questions. Thank you!

Namaste!

Diana Cohn

9780880106252

“Woven into this simple, gentle story about recognizing and honoring the sacred in one another are delightful details of daily life in Nepal.” –publisher

A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing and Shout

Paul Janeczko

9780763606633

“Following explorations of poetry as in *A Poke in the I* (2001) and *A Kick in the Head* (2005, both Candlewick), this title encourages readers and listeners to investigate poetry as sound.” – School Library Journal

More Perfect Than the Moon, or Caleb’s Story

Patricia MacLachlan

9780064405904

The third and fourth books in the beautiful series of a family on the prairie (that begins with *Sarah, Plain and Tall*.)

Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai

Donna Napoli

9781416935056

A beautifully illustrated story about Wangari Maathai, whose efforts helped the women of Kenya restore the country’s natural beauty one tree at a time.

Food Allergies

Elaine Landau

9780761435006

This is a clear and concise presentation of a common health issue. Children with allergies will appreciate understanding their situation, and those without allergies will be able to better help out their allergic classmates.

African Tales: A Barefoot Collection

Gcina Mhlophe

9781846681185

This colorfully illustrated volume of African folk tales would greatly enhance our collection of folktales from around the world.

Happy Birthday, Good Knight

Shelley M. Thomas

0525471847

“This third easy-to-read chapter book about three little dragons and their friend the Good Knight replaces the usual swashbuckling knight-in-armor action with cozy domestic farce. The dragons need a birthday gift for someone very special. Unfortunately, they don’t have any money, so the Good Knight shows them how to make gifts that come “from our hearts and our hands.” – Booklist

Alphab'art Anne Guery 9781847800138
This book beautifully presents of a wide spectrum of artwork, each piece with a letter of the alphabet to be found within. Great for our I Spy fans or art lovers.

Tooth on the Loose Susan M. Elya 9780399244599
“This little girl has tried everything to make her loose tooth come out before her dad’s birthday (except letting her brother yank it) so she’ll have money to buy him a gift. Nothing has worked and now it’s the big day. She just can’t go to his party empty handed! At the last second, her mom helps her think of a gift that doesn’t require any money—just imagination and heart. *I have no dinero, this card’s all I’ve got. / But, Papi, te quiero, I love you a lot.* And her dad couldn’t be happier.” – publisher

Thumbelina retold by Lauren Mills 0316573590
“This is a charmingly illustrated Thumbelina, retold with just a few changes in detail and some omissions of lengthy description that make the story more readable...In Mills's soft, detailed watercolor illustrations, the tiny red-haired girl appears fairylike in her filmy nightgown, then wears homespun jumpers and braids in the mouse's cozy burrow.” – SLJ

The Squirrel’s Birthday and Other Tales, Far Away Across the Sea, or Letters to Anyone and Everyone Toon Tellegen 9781906250959
We would love to have any of these three lovely small volumes of short stories written by a Dutch author. The animals of the forest are brought to life in a simple way that makes one appreciate the little things in life.

Bandit Karen Rostoker-Gruber 9780761453826
Bandit the cat experiences a move. The cartoon style illustrations convey Bandit’s emotions so well throughout the changes in his life.

The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez René Laínez 9781582462967
Miguelito loses a tooth and places it under his pillow. How could he know that this will set off a struggle between the English-speaking world’s Tooth Fairy and her Latin counterpart El Ratón Pérez?

So Many Days Aison McGhee 978141695874
Simple but abstract poetry is accompanied by linocut illustrations presenting life’s possibilities and each person’s inner strength.

Here Comes the Garbage Barge Jonah Winter 9780375952180
This is a fascinating true tale of the journey of a barge full of one town’s garbage. When the town of Islip, NY, ran out of space for its trash, workers loaded it up on a barge, which set out in search of a landfill with more space.

Stink: Solar System Superhero Megan McDonald 9780763643218
The latest installment of the adventures of Judy Moody’s little brother Stink. This is a very popular series among our Lower Elementary students.

The King and the Seed Eric Maddern 9781845079260
In this classic folktale of the value of honesty, a childless king seeks a wise replacement. He sets the task of growing a plant from seeds he has distributed. What happens when no one has any luck getting their seed to sprout?

Young Zeus Brian Karas 9780439728065
The story of how young Zeus became the God of Gods.

The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzoh Leslie Kimmelman 9780823419524
The classic folktale takes on the setting of Passover preparation time. A lighthearted retelling that shares some of the traditions of this holiday.

An Egret's Day Jane Yolen 9781590786505
Egret-themed poems accompanied by interesting facts and stunning photography.

Twimericks Lou Brooks 9780761156031
The tongue-twisting limericks in this small volume will be sure to be enjoyed by the Lower Elementary population.

The Goat-Faced Girl Leah Sharpe 9781567923933
When a lazy young woman falls in love with an equally lazy prince, the woman's mother (who happens to be a magical lizard) casts a spell to help the woman learn to be a more conscientious worker. The story is based on an Italian folk tale, and accompanied by vibrant illustrations
Our Lower Elementary students love trickster tales. The following are some tales from different cultures that each involve some entertaining trickery.

The Sacred Banana Leaf Nathan Kumar Scott 9788186211281
When Kanchil, a small mouse deer, fall into a pit, he must devise a plan to get out without being eaten by larger animals.

Borreguita and the Coyote Verna Aardema 9780679889366
Borreguita "little lamb" uses her cunning to escape the hungry jaws of a coyote.

The Tale of the Tricky Fox Jim Aylesworth 9780439095433
When Tricky Fox brags to Brother Fox that he will bring home a pig in his sack, Brother Fox vows to eat his hat. Tricky Fox tricks several people into giving him valuable items, but in the end the trick is on Tricky Fox himself, because he tries to fool a teacher!

The Monkey and the Crocodile: A Jakata Tale from India Paul Galdone 9780899195247
A clever crocodile pursues a monkey, whom he would love to eat, but the monkey proves to be even craftier and ultimately escapes.

The Dream Stealer

Sid Fleischman

9780061755637

Master storyteller Sid Fleischman spins a fanciful tale about a creature who steals bad dreams, based on Mexican folk lore.