

**Lower Elementary**  
*Updated June 23, 2010*

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 prevent 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](http://thacherschool.org), selecting the library tab. On this page you will be able to connect with the library’s catalog. Enter the title of the book you are considering, then click on “title.”

Additionally, we now keep updated birthday book wish lists posted on the school website, so you can easily check to make sure the book you’d like to donate is still wanted. If you have ordered or purchased a book that you plan to give, please consider emailing us so we can take it off the list: [library@thacherschool.org](mailto:library@thacherschool.org). Please feel free to call Joy or Andrea if you have any questions. Thank you.

**Eyewitness Books:** These are terrific for research for children of all levels.

Car	Sutton & Baquedano	9780756613846
Pond & River	Steve Parker	9780756610593
Natural Disasters	Watts & Day	9780756620721
American Revolution	Stuart Murray	9780756610593
Farm	Ned Halley	9780789460400
Religion	DK Publishing	0756610877

Django Bonnie Christiansen 9781596434226  
The inspirational story of guitarist Django Reinhardt, who began his playing as a young gypsy child, then suffered debilitating burns, and through perseverance recovered his ability to play guitar.

Thunder-Boomer! Shutta Crum 9780618618651  
Colorful descriptions of a thunder storm on a farm are accompanied by lots of playful sound effects, making this free-verse poem perfect for reading aloud.

Tumtum and Nutmeg Emily Bearn 9780316027038  
This lovely book contains three exciting adventures of Mr. and Mrs. Nutmouse, who reside in the broom closet of a grand house.

Harvest Year Cris Peterson 9781590787830  
The bounty of crops across the US is presented month by month. Excellent details about crops and technology are included.

Honk, Honk, Goose April Pulley Sayre 9780805071030  
A book about two Canada geese who raise a family. Beautiful cut paper collage illustrations.

Just Grace Goes Green Charise M. Harper 9780618959570  
The most recent book in the popular Just Grace series. Easy to read writing and cartoon illustrations make this tale of Grace and her efforts to save the environment a winner for newly independent readers.

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

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

Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly Alan Madison 9780375835971  
Velma Gratch’s first days in first grade are frustrating, as everyone remembers her older sisters. But on a trip to the butterfly conservatory, her teachers learn about how special Velma is herself.

Sneaky Weasel Shaw 9780375856259  
Sneaky Weasel finds that his mean bullying ways leave him with no friends. An important lesson presented with amusing illustrations.

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

Bring Me Some Apples and I’ll Make You Some Pie  
Robbin Gourley 9780618158362  
“In her children’s book debut, cookbook author/illustrator Gourley celebrates food, as cultivated on a farm and as used to cultivate family bonds. . . . Children whose experience of food supply is limited to grocery stores, school cafeterias and other eateries will relish this nostalgic view.”—*Publishers Weekly*

Only a Witch Can Fly Alison McGhee 9780312375034  
A young trick-or-treater is determined to fly on her Hallowe’en broomstick.

- The Story Behind Chocolate Sean Price 9781432923471  
The hidden story behind a favorite and fascinating food.
- Crow Call Lois Lowry 9780545030359  
A quiet, beautiful story of a girl going crow hunting with her father, who has returned after a long absence due to WWII. In the end, no crows are killed; father and daughter admire the crows' beauty and share a close time together.
- Library Mouse: A Friend's Tale Daniel Kirk 9780810989276  
In this sequel to the popular *Library Mouse*, Sam the mouse works together with a child, Tom, on a writing project.
- Highway Robbery Kate Thompson 9780061730344  
"This short chapter book with plentiful pen-and-ink drawings supplied by Dress, large font and lines spaced apart for easy reading is just the thing for those leaving early readers behind and wanting fast-paced action, dry humor and an ending that leaves room for discussion." – Kirkus review
- New Old Shoes Charlotte Blessing 9780979203565  
"This book will make children think about how they can help other youngsters around the world through something as simple as donating a pair of old shoes. The color-saturated illustrations provide a vibrant background to this touching story." —*School Library Journal*
- Nic Bishop Marsupials Nic Bishop 9780439877589  
Another exceptional animal book by the fabulous photographer and nature writer, Nic Bishop.
- Billy Twitters and His Blue Whale Problem Barnett 978-0786849581  
A very quirky book that many children will enjoy. When Billy doesn't clean his room, his parents threaten to get him a blue whale. And when they make good on that threat, Billy finds out how truly hard it is to care for a pet of that size.
- The Sun in Me Judith Nicholls 1841480584  
"Nicholls shows herself to be a master anthologist, joining the likes of X. J. Kennedy or Lee Bennett Hopkins, in her choice of poems that are both wonderful and accessible to children. The selections range over time and cultures, but each one shines in its crisp vision of the natural world...A book to warm the soul of any poetry lover." – SLJ
- Yoon and the Jade Bracelet Helen Recorvits 9780374386894  
The story of a Korean immigrant child looking for friendship. "Beautifully written and illustrated in every way, this gentle yet powerful story provides an important lesson on bullies and honesty." - The Santa Fe New Mexican
- Tillie Lays an Egg Terry Golson 978-0545005371

This *I Spy* type story follows a chicken named Tillie as she lays her eggs in unexpected places all around the farm. Excellent photographs accompany the fanciful story.