

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever The Herdmans Seri

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The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street Karina Yan Glaser 2017 From New York Times best-selling author Karina Yan Glaser comes one of Times' Notable Children's Books of 2017: "In this delightful and heartwarming throwback to the big-family novels of yesteryear, a large biracial family might lose their beloved brownstone home, but win it back with an all-out charm offensive." The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. It's practically another member of the family. So when their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the dreaded Beiderman just how wonderful they are. And all is fair in love and war when it comes to keeping their home.

The Best Halloween Ever Barbara Robinson 2011-01-04 The Herdmans plus Halloween have always spelled disaster. Every year these six kids -- the worst in the history of Woodrow Wilson School, and possibly even the world -- wreak havoc on the whole town. They steal candy, spray-paint kids, and take anything that's not nailed down. Now the mayor has had it. He's decided to cancel Halloween. There won't be any Herdmans to contend with this year, but there won't be any candy, either. And what's Halloween without candy? And without trick-or-treating? The Herdmans manage to turn the worst Halloween ever into the best Halloween ever in this uproarious sequel to *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Barbara Robinson 2011-02-22 This year's pageant is definitely like no other, but maybe that's exactly what makes it so special. Laughs abound in this bestselling Christmas classic by Barbara Robinson! The Best Christmas Pageant Ever follows the outrageous shenanigans of the Herdman siblings, or "the worst kids in the history of the world." The siblings take over the annual Christmas pageant in a hilarious yet heartwarming tale involving the Three Wise Men, a ham, scared shepherds, and six rowdy kids. You

and your family will laugh along with this funny story, perfect for independent reading or read-aloud sharing. Ralph, Imogene, Leroy, Claude, Ollie, and Gladys Herdman are an awful bunch. They set fire to Fred Shoemaker's toolshed, blackmailed Wanda Pierce to get her charm bracelet, and smacked Alice Wendelken across the head. And that's just the start! When the Herdmans show up at church for the free snacks and suddenly take over the Christmas pageant, the other kids are shocked. It's obvious that they're up to no good. But Christmas magic is all around and the Herdmans, who have never heard the Christmas story before, start to reimagine it in their own way.

Old Ringers Joe Simonelli 2019-04-27 "OLD RINGERS" - A Play in 2 acts. (2m,5f) In this Hilarious comedy, prolific American playwright Joe Simonelli spins a farcical yarn about five New York seniors who come up with a creative way to make some extra cash to combat a shrinking economy and their depleted pocket books. After receiving an obscene phone call during a coffee get together they decide to go into business for themselves by opening a home phone sex service. The only impediment being protagonist Dian's disapproving fundamental Christian daughter whom they must keep it a secret from! This play is performed throughout the U.S. and Canada. Rights can be obtained by visiting the authors website, www.joesimonelli.com. What Mr. Simonelli's literary agent has to say: "I represent such notable playwrights as NEIL SIMON, LARRY GELBART, and MART CROWLEY. I find Joe Simonelli to be in good company with his more famous counterparts." Sincerely yours, Gary DaSilva
What the critics said! "A comedy masterpiece! Mr. Simonelli has provided a timely take on how four seniors cope with a shrinking economy and their shrinking pocketbooks! Go see it now!" Joe Franklin - Bloomberg Radio "THE CHRONIC LAUGHTER OF A PACKED HOUSE AT THE RIDGEFIELD THEATRE BARN INDICATES THAT THE AUDIENCE WAS GREATLY ENTERTAINED!" - Broadway World "Go see Old Ringers to experience the lighter side of the economic downturn as told by comic playwright Joe Simonelli. Balancing obscenity with drier subjects like social security checks, keeps the play believable but doesn't detract from its raucous, crowd pleasing comedy!" Monterey County Weekly

Keeping Score Linda Sue Park 2010-03-08 Both Maggie Fortini and her brother, Joey-Mick, were named for baseball great Joe DiMaggio. Unlike Joey-Mick, Maggie doesn't play baseball—but at almost ten years old, she is a dyed-in-the-wool fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Maggie can recite all the players' statistics and understands the subtleties of the game. Unfortunately, Jim Maine is a Giants fan, but it's Jim who teaches Maggie the fine art of scoring a baseball game. Not only can she revisit every play of every inning, but by keeping score she feels she's more than just a fan: she's helping her team. Jim is drafted into the army and sent to Korea, and although Maggie writes to him often, his silence is just one of a string of disappointments—being a Brooklyn Dodgers fan in the early 1950s meant season after season of near misses and year after year of dashed hopes. But Maggie goes on trying to help the Dodgers, and when she finds out that Jim needs help, too, she's determined to provide it. Against a background of major league baseball and the Korean War on the home front, Maggie looks for, and finds, a way to make a difference. Even those readers who

think they don't care about baseball will be drawn into the world of the true and ardent fan. Linda Sue Park's captivating story will, of course, delight those who are already keeping score.

Here Be Dragons Susannah Lloyd 2021-02-02 A knight is on a mission: to find and slay a dragon. The other knights have told him that there's no such thing as dragons, but he doesn't care. For he has a map, and the map says: "HERE BE DRAGONS!" He travels right to the spot marked 'X', past treasure, suspicious bones, and many signs telling him to turn back. He wanders up and down a huge, spiky hill (the dragon's back) shouts into a burrow (the dragon's nose) and eventually walks into a cave (the dragon's mouth)... Will the hapless knight see the dragon before it's too late?! Young readers will love spotting the dragon in the background in this laugh-out-loud story from the author of *This Book Can Read Your Mind*.

Trying Neaira Debra Hamel 2003-01-01 Apollodorus and Stephanos of Athens had faced each other in court on a number of occasions, but their running feud was brought to a head in the late 340s when Stephanos' lover Neaira was prosecuted for transgressing Athenian marriage laws. Building on Apollodorus' speech from the trial and other source material, Debra Hamel recreates Neaira's life and experiences from her lowly origins in a brothel in Corinth, to a highly paid courtesan and sex slave, her retirement and 30-year relationship with Stephanos. Neaira's story allows Hamel to touch on many aspects of Athenian social history, from issues of prostitution and adultery, to religion and slavery, the life of a female non-citizen, to the legal process of the 4th century. An engaging story through which Hamel offers an extraordinary window onto Athenian society.

The Wild Women of Winedale Jessie Jones 2019-03-15 This joyful and exuberant, yet ultimately touching, comedy focuses on three women at crossroads in their lives—the Wild sisters of Winedale, Virginia—Fanny and Willa and their frustratingly quirky sister-in-law, Johnnie Faye. This feisty and fun-loving trio has supported and cheered one another through life's highs and lows through the years, including the early demise of two of their husbands. And they really need each other now as Fanny experiences a hilariously inappropriate reaction to her 60th birthday while Willa is so stressed out from her nursing job she resorts to vodka and speed-knitting to cope and Johnnie Faye, determined to put her year of fraught widowhood behind her, desperately tries to find a man—preferably a man with a house since hers is somewhere at the bottom of a Florida sinkhole. These women's lives are further upended by the responsibility of caring for their free-spirited, ailing aunt and the realization that they are drowning under loads of family keepsakes and possessions nobody wants—especially them! With equal doses of hilarity and heart, these extraordinary women come up with delightful and surprisingly unorthodox ways to clear the clutter from their lives, their homes and their relationships so they can move their lives forward. Together they prove it's never too late to take another one of life's paths for a grand new adventure. This Jones Hope Wooten comedy is guaranteed to drive you wild with laughter—and

motivate you to keep hounding the kids to please take that stack of quilts and Granny's Christmas china!

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Study Guide 205 2008-03-07 The annual Christmas pageant was safe and routine until the Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, land all the main parts. What happens when kids who have never heard the story of Christmas interpret it for their new church? Setting: Contemporary Pgs: 56

The Grace of Enough Haley Stewart 2018-09-07 Do you ever feel caught in an endless cycle of working harder and longer to get more while enjoying life less? The Stewart family did—and they decided to make a radical change. Popular Catholic blogger and podcaster Haley Stewart explains how a year-long internship on a sustainable farm changed her family's life for the better, allowing them to live gospel values more intentionally. When Haley Stewart married her bee-keeping sweetheart, Daniel, they dreamed of a life centered on home and family. But as the children arrived and Daniel was forced to work longer hours at a job he liked less and less, they dared to break free from the unending cycle of getting more yet feeling unfulfilled. They sold their Florida home and retreated to Texas to live on a farm with a compost toilet and 650 square feet of space for a family of five. Surprisingly, they found that they had never been happier. In *The Grace of Enough*, Stewart shares essential elements of intentional Christian living that her family discovered during that extraordinary year on the farm and that they continue to practice today. You, too, will be inspired to: live simply offer hospitality revive food culture and the family table reconnect with the land nurture community prioritize beauty develop a sense of wonder be intentional about technology seek authentic intimacy center life around home, family, and relationships Drawing from Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, Stewart identifies elements of Catholic social teaching that will enhance your life and create a ripple effect of grace to help you overcome the effects of today's "throwaway" culture and experience a deeper satisfaction and stronger faith.

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey Susan Wojciechowski 2015-09-08 "The tale is unfolded with such mastery, humor, and emotional force that we are entirely within its power." —The New York Times Book Review Features an audio read-along performed by James Earl Jones! Jonathan Toomey is the best woodcarver in the valley, but he is always alone and never smiles. No one knows about the mementos of his lost wife and child that he keeps in an unopened drawer. But one early winter's day, a widow and her young son approach him with a gentle request that leads to a joyful miracle. The moving, lyrical tale, gloriously illustrated by P.J. Lynch, has been widely hailed as a true Christmas classic.

Dragons Love Tacos Adam Rubin 2012 Explores the love dragons have for tacos and the dangers of feeding them anything with spicy salsa. By the award-winning team behind *Those Darn Squirrels!*

Little Red Sleigh Erin Guendelsberger 2020-10-06 Believe in the magic of Christmas with this heartwarming Christmas picture book about the little red sleigh that could! The Little Red Sleigh has one big dream—to one day become Santa's big red sleigh! But all her life, she's been told she's too small, she's too young, she can't fly, and she certainly can't meet Santa. Well, this Christmas, with the help of some friends, she's determined to do the impossible. Little Red Sleigh is a heartwarming children's Christmas book you'll want to read again and again. Full of winter joy and Christmas magic, this Christmas book for kids will remind you that no dream is out of reach if you believe. Why readers love Little Red Sleigh: Parents, grandparents, and teachers will have fun reading this inspirational, growth-mindset book to kids Screen-free fun for children during the winter season Ideal holiday gift and novelty stocking stuffer for kids

Giant Pumpkin Suite Melanie Heuiser Hill 2017 Twelve-year-old Rose Brutigan has always been different from her twin brother, Thomas, but now she towers over him in too many ways. But when a serious accident changes the course of the summer, Rose is forced to grow and change in ways she never could have imagined.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever CD-ROM 205cd Study Gd 2011-03-24 Everyone agreed that the six Herdman kids were the worst kids in the world. They lied, they stole, they hit little kids, they talked dirty, and even the girls smoked cigars. To the other children Sunday School was a safe haven, because the Herdman's never went there. Then one Sunday, when the Herdman's show up looking for chocolate cake, they hear about the Christmas pageant and decide they want to participate. To everyone's dismay the Herdman's manage to get the lead roles in the play. Everyone expects a disaster, but to their surprise the Herdman's bring a fresh interpretation to the Christmas story - a story the Herdman's had never heard before until now. Interactive CD-rom.

A Guide for Using The Best Christmas Pageant Ever in the Classroom Laurie Swinwood 1994-10 Contains resources for teaching "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson that provides lesson plans, vocabulary and comprehension activities, quizzes, and graphic organizers.

My Mommy Hung the Moon Jamie Lee Curtis 2010-09-07 My mommy hung the moon. She tied it with string. My mommy's good at EVERYTHING. The ninth children's book by the #1 New York Times bestselling team of Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell is a celebration of unconditional love between mother and child. Mommy is the best at everything: Not only does she carpool, untangle kites, steal bases, and bake cookies, she also seems to light up the sun with her love. Written straight from the heart and illustrated with tender hilarity, My Mommy Hung the Moon: A Love Story is a keepsake that defines the magical relationship a mother has with her son or daughter. So grab the little one you love, and rejoice as the ordinary moments of everyday life become extraordinary because of the magic of mother love.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Barbara Robinson 1983 The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree Robert Barry 2012-11-28 Give the gift of holiday spirit with this classic picture book that celebrates how one Christmas tree brings joy to a whole forest of critters! Christmas is here and Mr. Willowby's tree has arrived. There's just one big problem: The tree is too tall for his parlor! He cuts off the top so it will fit, and soon the top of that tree is passed along again and again to bring holiday cheer to all the animals in the forest. Kids will love watching the tree move from home to home, and families will appreciate the subtle message of conservation and recycling, as the tree top spreads joy to all. This heartwarming story is the perfect way to start the yuletide season, and a warm addition to any family's festive holiday traditions.

Around the Table That Grandad Built Melanie Heuiser Hill 2019-09 A beautifully illustrated celebration of bounty and gratitude, family and friendship, perfect for the holidays and every day. This is the table that Grandad built. These are the sunflowers picked by my cousins, set on the table that Grandad built. In a unique take on the cumulative classic "This Is the House That Jack Built," a family gathers with friends and neighbors to share a meal around a table that brims with associations: napkins sewn by Mom, glasses from Mom and Dad's wedding, silverware gifted to Dad by his grandma long ago. Not to mention the squash from the garden, the bread baked by Gran, and the pies made by the young narrator (with a little help). Serving up a diverse array of dishes and faces, this warm and welcoming story is poised to become a savored part of Thanksgiving traditions to come.

Skipping Christmas John Grisham 2004 Luther and Nora Krank decide to avoid the chaos and frenzy of Christmas by taking a Caribbean cruise during the holidays, but their plans have unexpected consequences.

The Story of Holly and Ivy Rumer Godden 2016-10-06 It is Christmas Eve and, for the toys in Mr Blossom's shop, it is their last chance to be sold. Holly, a small doll dressed especially for Christmas, wishes hard for her own special child. But the day ends and Holly is left in the window. On Christmas morning a little lost orphan girl finds herself outside the toyshop. Ivy has never had a doll to love, but when she sees Holly, she knows at once that this doll is meant specially for her. But Ivy has no money, and the shop is closed . . . The Story of Holly and Ivy is a Christmas classic by Rumer Godden, beautifully illustrated by Christian Birmingham.

Dogpark Malcolm Hillgartner 2010 Follow Daisy, the sassy Westie, through her misadventures in the singles scene with Itchy, Champ, and Bogie at the hippest place in town, Central Bark, where every dog has his day and love conquers all.

Getting Real About Race Stephanie M. McClure 2017-08-24 Getting Real About Race

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is an edited collection of short essays that address the most common stereotypes and misconceptions about race held by students, and by many in the United States, in general.

Notes from a Liar and Her Dog Jennifer Choldenko 2003-06-23 Living in a family with two perfect sisters and parents who just don't get her, Ant MacPherson finds it easier to lie. After all, the only one who appreciates her is her dog, Pistachio. But when a concerned teacher sees the truth behind Ant's lies, it seems as though she might be in for a change . . .

Jotham's Journey Arnold Ytreeide 2008-08-26 In this widely popular, exciting story for the advent season, readers follow ten-year-old Jotham across Israel as he searches for his family. Though he faces thieves, robbers, and kidnappers, Jotham also encounters the wise men, shepherds, and innkeepers until at last he finds his way to the Savior born in Bethlehem.

Tracker Gary Paulsen 2000-04 Only thirteen, John must track a deer in the Minnesota woods for his family's winter meat, and in doing so finds himself drawn to the doe who leads him and hating his role as hunter.

In This House of Brede Rumer Godden 2016-12-13 Following World War II, a British widow joins a Benedictine monastery in this poignant New York Times bestseller from the author of *Black Narcissus*. For most of her adult life, Philippa Talbot has been a successful British professional. Now in her forties, the World War II-widow has made a startling decision: She's giving up her civil service career and elite social standing to join a convent as a postulant Roman Catholic nun. In Sussex in the south of England, Philippa begins her new life inside Brede Abbey, a venerable, 130-year-old Benedictine monastery. Taking her place among a diverse group of extraordinary women, young and old, she is welcomed into the surprisingly rich and complex world of the devout, whom faith, fate, and circumstance have led there. From their personal stories, both uplifting and heartbreaking, Philippa draws great strength in the weeks, months, and years that follow, as the confidence, conflicts, and poignant humanity of her fellow sisters serve to validate her love and sacred purpose. But a time of great upheaval in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church approaches as the winds of change blow at gale force. And for the financially troubled Brede and the acolytes within, it will take no less than a miracle to weather the storm. Author Rumer Godden spent three years living in close proximity to Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire communing with the Benedictine nuns in preparation for the writing of this beloved bestseller. The result is an honest and unforgettable novel of love, sacrifice, and devotion, a major literary achievement from the acclaimed author of *Black Narcissus* and *The River*. This ebook features an illustrated biography of the author including rare images from the Rumer Godden Literary Estate.

The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving Jan Berenstain 2016-05-17 Join Brother and Sister Bear at the Christmas Eve pageant as they witness the very first Christmas, and make an important discovery about giving and receiving, a

valuable lesson at Christmas and year around. Young readers will learn the true meaning of Christmas in this addition to The Berenstain Bears Living Lights™ series. The Berenstain Bears explore the value of generosity and gratitude in The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving. Children will discover ways to implement traditional values and share God's goodness in Zonderkidz The Berenstain Bears Living Lights™ series of books. The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving: Sparks conversations about the joy of giving to others? Encourages age appropriate discussions about sharing and developing an attitude of gratitude? Perfect for back-to-school reading, summer reading, birthday gifts, and holiday?gift-giving Perfect for early reader ages 4-8, reading out loud at home or in a classroom The Berenstain Bears Living Lights™ series: Features the hand-drawn artwork of the Berenstain family Continues in the much-loved footsteps of Stan and Jan Berenstain Is part of one of the bestselling children's book series ever created, with more than 250 unique books published and nearly 300 million books sold to date? Look for additional inspirational children's picture books in The Berenstain Bears Living Lights™ series.

The Best School Year Ever Barbara Robinson 2011-02-15 Buckle up for a wild ride involving a missing gerbil, a crazy cat, and a tattooed baby that will have readers of all ages laughing! This hilarious novel stars the Herdmans, the worst kids in the world, who made their first appearance in author Barbara Robinson's classic The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. In The Best School Year Ever, Imogene, Claude, Ralph, Leroy, Ollie, and Gladys Herdman haven't changed a bit. They still set things on fire and knock the other kids black and blue. One day the teachers ask all the students to think of compliments for their classmates, and Beth Bradley picks Imogene Herdman's name. At first, Beth can't think of anything good, but soon she begins to see Imogene in a new light. Maybe behind all of the outrageous pranks, there is something good about the Herdmans?

Hiddensee Gregory Maguire 2017-10-31 The author of the beloved New York Times bestseller Wicked returns with an inventive novel inspired by a timeless holiday legend, intertwining the story of the famous Nutcracker with the life of the mysterious toy maker named Drosselmeier who carves him. Hiddensee: An island of white sandy beaches, salt marshes, steep cliffs, and pine forests north of Berlin in the Baltic Sea, an island that is an enchanting bohemian retreat and home to a large artists' colony-- a wellspring of inspiration for the Romantic imagination . . . Having brought his legions of devoted readers to Oz in Wicked and to Wonderland in After Alice, Maguire now takes us to the realms of the Brothers Grimm and E. T. A. Hoffmann-- the enchanted Black Forest of Bavaria and the salons of Munich. Hiddensee imagines the backstory of the Nutcracker, revealing how this entrancing creature came to be carved and how he guided an ailing girl named Klara through a dreamy paradise on a Christmas Eve. At the heart of Hoffmann's mysterious tale hovers Godfather Drosselmeier-- the ominous, canny, one-eyed toy maker made immortal by Petipa and Tchaikovsky's fairy tale ballet-- who presents the once and future Nutcracker to Klara, his goddaughter. But Hiddensee is not just a retelling of a classic story. Maguire discovers in the flowering of German Romanticism ties to Hellenic mystery-

cults-- a fascination with death and the afterlife-- and ponders a profound question: How can a person who is abused by life, shortchanged and challenged, nevertheless access secrets that benefit the disadvantaged and powerless? Ultimately, Hiddensee offers a message of hope. If the compromised Godfather Drosselmeier can bring an enchanted Nutcracker to a young girl in distress on a dark winter evening, perhaps everyone, however lonely or marginalized, has something precious to share.

The Family Under the Bridge Natalie Savage Carlson 1989-02-15 This is the delightfully warm and enjoyable story of an old Parisian named Armand, who relished his solitary life. Children, he said, were like starlings, and one was better off without them. But the children who lived under the bridge recognized a true friend when they met one, even if the friend seemed a trifle unwilling at the start. And it did not take Armand very long to realize that he had gotten himself ready-made family; one that he loved with all his heart, and one for whom he would have to find a better home than the bridge. Armand and the children's adventures around Paris -- complete with gypsies and a Santa Claus -- make a story which children will treasure.

Rose Under Fire Elizabeth E. Wein 2013-09-10 Rose Justice is a young pilot with the Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War. On her way back from a semi-secret flight in the waning days of the war, Rose is captured by the Germans and ends up in Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi women's concentration camp. There, she meets an unforgettable group of women, including a once glamorous and celebrated French detective novelist whose Jewish husband and three young sons have been killed; a resilient young girl who was a human guinea pig for Nazi doctors trying to learn how to treat German war wounds; and a *Nachthexen*, or Night Witch, a female fighter pilot and military ace for the Soviet air force. These damaged women must bond together to help each other survive. In this companion volume to the critically acclaimed novel *Code Name Verity*, Elizabeth Wein continues to explore themes of friendship and loyalty, right and wrong, and unwavering bravery in the face of indescribable evil.

The Explorer Katherine Rundell 2017-09-12 From Boston Globe-Horn Book Award winner Katherine Rundell comes an exciting new novel about a group of kids who must survive in the Amazon after their plane crashes. Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they're on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. For days they survive alone, until Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret.

The Holiday Heroes Save Christmas Adam Wallace 2018-10-02 Join in on a zany Christmas adventure with this festive and funny new picture book featuring iconic holiday characters like you've never seen before—as superheroes! Breaking news from the North Pole! Santa Claus can't deliver presents on Christmas Eve, and he needs backup. But not just anybody can help him—he needs the Holiday Heroes! This Christmas, it's up to the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, a Witch and a Leprechaun to fill in for Santa and save Christmas. Can the Holiday Heroes deliver presents without being spotted and keep Christmas on

track for every little girl and boy? The Holiday Heroes Save Christmas is a new approach to giftable Christmas books that will have readers laughing all season long! The perfect holiday picture book for kids 4–7 who love superheroes AND Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and more holidays year-round! This Christmas story for children is an easy gift or stocking stuffer and an exciting way to create family time this holiday season, and even start a new screen-free Christmas tradition!

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Barbara Robinson 1983 The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

The Girl Who Saved Christmas Matt Haig 2017-10-31 "If somewhere in the afterlife Roald Dahl met Charles Dickens and they cooked up a new Christmas tale, it couldn't have much on this fleet, verbally rambunctious, heart-stealing follow-up to *A Boy Called Christmas*."—The New York Times Amelia Wishart was the first child ever to receive a Christmas present. It was her Christmas spirit that gave Santa the extra boost of magic he needed to make his first trip around the world. But now Amelia is in trouble. When her mother falls ill, she is sent to the workhouse to toil under cruel Mr. Creeper. For a whole year, Amelia scrubs the floors and eats watery gruel, without a whiff of kindness to keep her going. It's not long before her hope begins to drain away. Meanwhile, up at the North Pole, magic levels dip dangerously low as Christmas approaches, and Santa knows that something is gravely wrong. With the help of his trusty reindeer, a curious cat, and Charles Dickens, he sets out to find Amelia, the only girl who might be able to save Christmas. But first Amelia must learn to believe again. . . . "Matt Haig has an empathy for the human condition, the light and the dark of it, and he uses the full palette to build his excellent stories." —Neil Gaiman, Newbery-winning author of *The Graveyard Book* "With a little bit of naughty and a lot of nice, this Christmastime yarn is a veritable sugarplum." —Kirkus Reviews

The True Gift Patricia MacLachlan 2013-10 While spending Christmas at their grandparents' farm, Lily becomes convinced that her younger brother Liam is right about White Cow being lonely and helps him seek a companion for her, leaving little time for Christmas preparations or reading.

Joey Pigza Loses Control Jack Gantos 2011-07-05 The sequel to *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, a National Book Award Finalist. When Joey Pigza meets his dad for the first time in years, he meets a grown-up version of his old out-of-control self. Carter Pigza is as wired as Joey used to be -- before his stint in special ed, and before he got his new meds. Joey's mom reluctantly agrees that he can stay with his dad for a summer visit, which sends Joey racing with sky-high hopes that he and Carter can finally get to know each other. But as the weeks whirl by, Carter has bigger plans in mind. He decides that just as he has pulled himself up by his own bootstraps, Joey can do the same and become as normal as any kid, without the help of a doctor's prescription. Carter believes Joey can do it and Joey wants to believe him more than anything in the world.

Here is the continuation of the acclaimed Joey Pigza story, affirming not only that Joey Pigza is a true original but that it runs in the family. This title has Common Core connections. Joey Pigza Loses Control is a 2000 New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year and a 2001 Newbery Honor Book.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Barbara Robinson 2007-01-01