

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Thanksgiving Fun @ Your Columbus Public Library!

My and my bride's immediate family do not reside in Columbus, so we look forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday as a time to reconnect with loved ones and watch our children have fun with cousins, uncles, aunts, and grandparents. It is also during this time that we, like many Americans, take stock in the abundant blessings that have been afforded to our little family of five.

We have found that a fun way of doing this is by sharing humorous holiday picture books with our children. Books like "Albuquerque Turkey" by B.G. Ford, "I know an Old Lady who Swallowed a Pie" by Alison Jackson, "Night Before Thanksgiving" by Natasha Wing, and "My First Thanksgiving" by Tomie DePaola always bring a smile to the little ones in my life, but there is one book that has all of us in stitches: "A Plump and Perky Turkey" by Teresa Bateman. In this quirky tale, readers meet the "down-hearted and depressed" citizens of Squawk Valley. It is a week before Thanksgiving and they still have no turkey for their holiday feast. But their cunning and sly mayor, Ebenezer Bezer, devises a plan to outwit and trap a butterball delight, stating "If we can't find a turkey, let's have one find us, instead!" He goes on to explain that the town will host a turkey-themed arts and crafts fair, using a real turkey to model for the event. Bezer boasts that once the judging is complete and the winners are announced, he will personally sneak up behind their feathered guest and toss him into a pot. Before they know it, the citizens will be feasting on a turkey of their very own! The hungry crowd delights in the idea and sets to work implementing the plan. They post posters around the forest at turkey level, of course, and wait to see what feathered candidate applies.

Well as luck would have it, a robust turkey named Pete spies the unique advertisement and is more than excited at the opportunity to strike a pose. "A plump and perky turkey? Well, I'm sure I qualify," gushes Pete. To see if the hungry folks of Squawk Valley will get their turkey feast or if they will have to make do with bowls of shredded wheat, checkout "A Plump and Perky Turkey" by Teresa Bateman.

If you are seeking fun and engaging holiday books to help get your little ones in the mood for the upcoming festivities, be sure to stop by the Columbus Public Library and check out what we have to offer. I am sure, no matter the age of your children, the library will have a great holiday text that will satisfy even the pickiest of palates. If you have any questions regarding the books mentioned in the article or would like other fun reading suggestions, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.