

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Turkey Day Recommendations!!

I love Thanksgiving because it is the time of year when individuals celebrate the many blessings they have received...plus, we get to eat turkey and I really like turkey! With Thanksgiving only four days away, I thought I would focus on a few of the wonderful children's books that highlight this amazing holiday.

Books like "Albuquerque Turkey" by B.G. Ford, "Franklin's Thanksgiving" by Sharon Jennings, "My First Thanksgiving" by Tomie DePaola, and "The Night before Thanksgiving" by Natasha Wing are just some of the texts that might help children prepare for the upcoming Thanksgiving festivities.

But there is ONE book that is GUARENTEED to get little ones excited about Turkey Day and that is "A Plump and Perky Turkey" by Teresa Bateman. In this poetic tale, readers meet the people of Squawk Valley who are "down hearted and depressed" because they cannot "find a turkey for the feast they planned to eat...and it looks like they'll be making due with bowls of Shredded Wheat."

But Ebenezer Beazer, the town's mayor, comes up with an idea. "If we can't find a turkey, let's have one find us instead," Beazer tells the crowd, "We'll host an arts and crafts fair...a fair with one grand turkey prize for ALL of us to share!" So the townspeople set to work hanging posters in the forest way down low, inviting "turkey candidates to model for their show."

Well, it just so happens that there lived a turkey known as Pete; "he was cocky; he was clever; and he really liked to eat!" Pete decides to apply for the position as he "strutted plump and proud...he could hardly wait to model for the large and eager crowd."

On Thanksgiving Day, the art work done, the people of Squawk Valley asked Pete down and began judging the turkey ark to pick "the best in town." "Now, when the judging's over," Beazer whispered with a smile, "we'll tuck that model turkey in the oven for a while!"

But clever Pete, sensing that it was time for him to go, grabbed the oatmeal turkey before he vanished from the show.

That afternoon the people in Squawk Valley were feeling rather blue. It seemed that the only turkey left in town was just too hard to chew. "Oh, well," said Beazer as he settled down to eat, "At least we still have our bowls of 'yummy' Shredded Wheat."

As you can see, "A Plump and Perky Turkey" by Teresa Bateman is a wonderful text for little ones and will make an excellent read aloud for the classroom setting and one-on-one time before bed.

If you are searching for Thanksgiving books for the children in your life, stop by the Columbus Public Library and check out some of the wonderful turkey books we have to offer! If you have any questions about the books featured in the article or would like other holiday recommendations, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 7.