

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Take Time To Enjoy a Great Book During the Holidays"

With Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas occurring less than 25 days apart, it is terribly easy to become caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. One way I try to avoid this is by focusing on what I am thankful for during the Thanksgiving holiday. When asked what I am thankful for during this time of year, my answer is consistent: my family, my church, my garden, and my books.

When I say, "my books," I usually get comments like, "You're a librarian; you're expected to say that." But honestly, that is not true. I say "books," especial picture books, because they enable me to relax during this fast pace time. A number of great Thanksgiving picture books are available for checkout at the Columbus Public Library (CPL) such as "Berenstain Bears' Thanksgiving" by Stan and Jan Berenstain, "Firefighters' Thanksgiving" by Maribeth Boelts, "Arthur's Thanksgiving" by Marc Brown, "Albuquerque Turkey" by B.G. Ford, "We Gather Together...Now Please Get Lost!" by Diane deGroat, and "Trucktown Trucksgiving" by Jon Scieszka. One Thanksgiving text, however, really melts my butter, "A Plump and Perky Turkey" by Teresa Bateman.

In this corky tale, children meet the citizens of Squawk Valley. These poor folks are "down-hearted and depressed" because it is Thanksgiving and they have no turkey for their holiday feast. But their mayor, Ebenezer Bezer, hatches a plan to trap a feathered delight. He announces that the town will host a turkey arts and crafts show, using a real turkey to model for the projects. Bezer tells the people that once the judging is complete and the winners announced, he will sneak up behind their feathered guest and toss him into the pot! To see if the hungry Squawk Vallians get their turkey feast, checkout "A Plump and Perky Turkey" by Teresa Bateman.

I would like to take this opportunity and invite families to CPL's story walk, which will take place during Columbus' Downtown Christmas Stroll on Thursday, November 21, from 4-8 p.m. For those unfamiliar with the story walk concept, a book is selected and broken down into page-spreads. The spreads are then distributed to various locations. Individuals then go from location to location enjoying the story. CPL has decided to feature "The Mitten" by Jan Brett. The story walk will begin at the library where families will receive an M&M and popcorn treat, a key chain flashlight, and a story walk map. Families then follow the map to find out if the young Ukrainian boy ever finds his beloved white mitten.

So take time during the holidays to enjoy family, friends, and a great picture book with the little ones in your life. Believe me, time flies fast enough and it will be gone before you know it, so give thanks for what you have. If you have any questions about the Thanksgiving books featured in the article or would like more information about the upcoming Downtown Stroll Story Walk, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.