

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"The Perfect Books for the Holiday"

With Christmas day roughly 72 hours away many people are busy wrapping up last minute tasks such as purchasing gifts, baking tasty treats, decorating trees, and finalizing travel plans. To provide a needed break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, I would like to recommend a few great picture books that the whole family will enjoy warming up to!

"What Santa Can't Do" by Douglas Wood provides children with a behind the scenes look into the life of Jolly Old St. Nick by explaining how he is both similar and different compared to the average person. For example, Santa can find every house in every town in every country, but he can't always find his favorite slippers. This insightful tidbit demonstrates that like us, sometimes Santa is forgetful. Did you know that Santa can't giggle, chuckle, or snicker; he can only "ho, ho, ho"? Though everybody else has a unique laugh depending on the situation, Santa only has his traditional joyful noise!

"Mouse's First Christmas" by Lauren Thompson features Thompson's popular children's character Little Mouse. The story begins with "Twas a night still and starry and all through the house, not a creature was stirring...just one little mouse." The rest of the book chronicles the adventures Little Mouse has as he encounters various Christmas decor such as candy canes, jingle bells, and Christmas trees. Toward the end of the story though, Little Mouse encounters a very special visitor, who says to him, "Tis your very first Christmas and all through the house no one is loved more than you, Little Mouse." The kind words that come forth from his white-bearded face fill Little Mouse with the warmth of the holiday season.

"If You Take a Mouse to the Movies" by Laura Numeroff is a delightful tale about what happens when a young boy decides to treat his fuzzy friend to a movie. Though the title mentions nothing about Christmas, readers soon discover that this is indeed a holiday book. The story begins in the movie theater with the little mouse asking for some popcorn. The mouse soon becomes bored with the show and starts to string the kernels together. The reader is then taken on an adventure, where the little mouse encounters a number of Christmas symbols such as tree ornaments, carols, and snowmen. At the end of the book, the boy and the mouse end their ordeal at the movie theater where their story began.

So if your loved ones find that they are in need of a timeout from the craziness that can be the holiday season, visit the Columbus Public Library and checkout a few of the nearly 300 Christmas picture books that are available. I can guarantee that you will find the right book to put next to the cookies you leave out for Old St. Nick! If you would like more information on other great holiday reads, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.