

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Treats for the Holidays"

With the holidays less than eleven days away, it is easy for people to become caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. One way I avoid this is by focusing on what really matters most in my life: my family and friends, my church, and my books.

When I say, "my books," I will often hear comments like, "You're a librarian; you're supposed to say that." But honestly, books, especial picture books, enable me to relax with my children during this fast pace time. A number of great Thanksgiving picture books are available for checkout at the Columbus Public Library (CPL). But I must admit, one Thanksgiving text 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 mischievous mayor, Ebenezer Bezer, hatches a plan to trap a butterball delight. Bezer announces to the melancholy crowd that Squawk Valley will host a turkey arts and crafts show, using a real turkey to model for the projects. He then explains that once the judging is complete and the winners are announced, old Bezer, himself, will sneak up behind their feathered guest and toss him into a pot and before they know it, the citizens will be feasting on a butterball of their own! To see if the hungry Squawk Valley citizens get their turkey feast, checkout "A Plump and Perky Turkey" by Teresa Bateman.

So take time during the holiday rush to reflect on what matters most. Believe me, time flies fast enough and it will be gone before you know it, so give thanks for what you have. If you would like more Thanksgiving book recommendations, feel free to contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite families to take part in the CPL's story walk, which will take place during Columbus' Downtown Christmas Stroll on Thursday, November 20, 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 businesses in downtown Columbus. Individuals then go from store to store enjoying the story. This year's pick is "The Three Bears" by Jan Brett. The story walk will begin at CPL where families will receive a treat of M&Ms and popcorn, a key chain flashlight, and a story walk map. Families then follow the map and enjoy the Eskimo version of the three bears in Brett's tale, "The Three Snow Bears."

We are also hosting a "Write In" at CPL to celebrate November's National Novel Writing Month. We are hosting the "Write In" in the Video Conference Room; located on the second floor of the library on Tuesday, November 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Snacks and drinks will be provided for participants throughout the day.

Happy holidays from the CPL staff! We hope to see you at our many upcoming events!