

Recommended Book List for Children

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Holiday Project

All books listed may be purchased from the [Amazon.com Holiday Project Book List](#)

Infant to Pre-School

- [The Neighborhood Sing-Along](#) by Nina Crews
- [Lola Loves Stories](#) by Anna McQuinn
- [Peekaboo Morning](#) by Rachel Isadora
- [Just for You!](#) book series
- [Fiesta Babies](#) by Carmen Tafolla; illustrated by Amy Córdova
- [¡Pío Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes](#) by Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy; illustrated by Viví Escrivá
- [Quinito, Day and Night/Quinito, Día y Noche](#) by Ina Cumpiano; illustrated by José Ramírez
- [One Afternoon](#) by Yumi Heo
- [Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book](#) by Yuyi Morales
- [Baby Says](#) by John Steptoe
- [Baby Rattlesnake](#) by Ata Te; illustrated by Mira Reisberg
- [Round is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes](#) by Rosanne Thong; illustrated by Grace Lin
- [Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?](#) by Bernelda Wheeler; illustrated by Herman Bekkering
- [More, More, More, Said the Baby: Three Love Stories](#) by Vera B. Williams
- [Flower Garden](#) by Eve Bunting; illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt
- [Grandfather and I](#) by Helen E. Buckley; illustrated by Jan Ormerod
- [Kente Colors](#) by Debbi Chocolate; illustrated by John Ward
- [Full, Full, Full of Love](#) by Trish Cooke; illustrated by Paul Howard
- [My Family Plays Music](#) by Judy Cox; illustrated by Elbrite Brown
- [The Neighborhood Mother Goose](#) by Nina Crews

- [One Hot Summer Day](#) by Nina Crews
- [Clean Your Room, Harvey Moon!](#) by Pam Cummings
- [Rap a Tap Tap](#) by Leo & Diane Dillon
- [This Jazz Man](#) by Karen Ehrhardt; illustrated by R.G Roth
- [Hot Day on Abbott Avenue](#) by Karen English; illustrated by Javaka Steptoe
- [When Will Sarah Come?](#) by Elizabeth Howard; illustrated by Nina Crews
- [Black All Around](#) by Patricia Hubbell; illustrated by Don Tate
- [Bring on That Beat](#) by Rachel Isadora
- [Daddy Calls Me Man](#) by Angela Johnson; paintings by Rhonda Mitchell
- [Lily Brown's Paintings](#) by Angela Johnson; paintings by E.B. Lewis
- [Violet's Music](#) by Angela Johnson; illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith
- [Shanna's Ballerina Show](#) by Jean Marzollo; illustrated by Shane W. Evans
- [Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life](#) by Jerdine Nolen; illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- [All Aboard!](#) by Mary Lyn Ray; illustrated by Amiko Hirao
- [My Freight Train](#) by Michael Rex
- [What's What? A Guessing Game](#) by Mary Serfozo; illustrated by Keiko Narahashi
- [Kevin and His Dad](#) by Irene Smalls
- [My Nana and Me](#) by Irene Smalls; illustrated by Cathy Ann Johnson
- [Max's Starry Night](#) by Ken Wilson-Max
- [Do You Know What I'll Do?](#) by Charlotte Zolotow; pictures by Javaka Steptoe
- [Lola Reads to Leo](#) by Anna McQuinn; illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw
- [Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic](#) by Ginnie Lo; illustrated by Beth Lo
- [Yoko Learns to Read](#) by Rosemary Wells

Young Elementary

- [My People](#) by Langston Hughes. Photos by Charles R. Smith
- [Moon Over Star](#) by Dianna Aston
- [Ellington Was Not a Street](#) by Ntozake Shange
- [I Love My Hair!](#) by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley; illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- [Grandfather Counts](#) by Andrea Cheng; illustrated by Ange Zhang

- [Hairs/Pelitos](#) by Sandra Cisneros; illustrated by Terry Ybáñez
- [I Lost my Tooth in Africa](#) by Penda Diakité; illustrated by Baba Wangué Diakité
- [Honey, I Love, and Other Poems](#) by Eloise Greenfield; illustrated by Leo & Dianne Dillon
- [The Good Luck Cat](#) by Joy Harjo; illustrated by Paul Lee
- [Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding](#) by Lenore Look; illustrated by Yumi Heo
- [Mirandy and Brother Wind](#) by Patricia C. McKissack; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
- [When the Shadbush Blooms](#) by Carla Messinger and Susan Katz; illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden
- [Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children](#) by Sandra L. Pinkney; illustrated by Myles Pinkney
- [What Can You Do With a Paleta](#) by Carmen Tafolla; illustrated by Karen Reczuch
- [Growing Up with Tamales = Los tamales de Ana](#) by Gwendolyn Zepeda; illustrated by April Ward

6-9 Years Old

- [Grandma's Gift](#) by Eric Velasquez
- [Dear Primo: A Letter to my Cousin](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh
- [Me, Frida](#) by Amy Novesky; illustrated by David Diaz
- [The Blacker the Berry](#) by Joyce Carol Thomas; illustrated by Floyd Cooper
- [Before John Was a Jazz Giant](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Sean Qualls
- [The Negro Speaks of Rivers](#) by Langston Hughes; illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- [Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave](#) by Laban Carrick Hill; illustrated by Bryan Collier
- [Jimi Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix](#) by Gary Gollo; illustrated by Javaka Steptoe
- [Sassy: Little Sister is Not My Name](#) by Sharon Draper
- [Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs](#) by Sharon Draper
- [My Name is Maria Isabell](#) by Alma Flor Ada; illustrated by K. Dyle Thompson
- [From the Bellybutton of the Moon, and Other Summer Poems/Del ombliga de la luna, y otros poemas de verano](#) by Francisco X. Alarcón; illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez
- [Shin-chi's Canoe](#) by Nicola Campbell; illustrated by Kim LaFave
- [Dia's Story Cloth: The Hmong People's Journey to Freedom](#) by Dia & Chue Cha and Nhia Thao Cha

- [*The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales*](#) by Virginia Hamilton; illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon
- [*John Henry*](#) by Julius Lester; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
- [*The People Shall Continue*](#) by Simon Ortiz; illustrated by Sharol Graves
- [*Ruby Lu, Brave and True*](#) by Lenore Look; illustrated by Anne Wildsorf
- [*Rickshaw Girl*](#) by Mitali Perkins; illustrated by Jamie Hogan
- [*Tar Beach*](#) by Faith Ringgold
- [*Indian Shoes*](#) by Cynthia Leitich Smith; illustrated by Jim Madsen
- [*Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*](#) by Mildred Pitts Walter
- [*Show Way*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson; illustrated by Hudson Talbott
- [*Jazz Age Josephine*](#) by Jonah Winter
- [*How Tia Lola Came to \(Visit\) Stay*](#) by Julie Alvarez
- [*We March*](#) by Shane W. Evans
- [*Guacamole: Un Poema Para Cocinar*](#) by Jorge Argueta
- [*Seeds of Change*](#) by Jen Cullerton Johnson; illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler
- [*I, Too, Am America*](#) by Langston Hughes; illustrated by Brian Collier
- [*The Year of the Book*](#) by Andrea Cheng; illustrated by Abigail Halpin
- [*La Coleccionista de Palabras*](#) by Sonja Wimmer
- [*Halfway to Perfect*](#) by Nikki Grimes; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

9-12 Years Old

- [*Jazz*](#) by Walter Dean Myers
- [*One Crazy Summer*](#) by Rita Williams-Garcia
- [*Ninth Ward*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- [*90 Miles to Havana*](#) by Enrique Flores-Galbis
- [*¡Olé! Flamenco*](#) by George Ancona
- [*The Other Half of My Heart*](#) by Sundee Tucker Frazier
- [*Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It*](#) by Sundee Tucker Frazier
- [*Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshall*](#) by Vaunda Nelson; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

- [*The Dreamer*](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan; illustrated by Peter Sís
- [*Through My Eyes*](#) by Ruby Bridges
- [*Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life's Song*](#) by Ashley Bryan; photographed by Bill McGuinness
- [*Bud, Not Buddy*](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis
- [*The Birchbark House*](#) by Louise Erdrich
- [*1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*](#) by Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac, with Plimoth Plantation; photographed by Sisse Brimberg and Cotton Coulson
- [*Oh, Freedom! Kids Talk About the Civil Rights Movement with the People Who Made It Happen*](#) by Casey King and Linda Barrett Osborne
- [*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*](#) by Grace Lin
- [*The Tree is Older Than You Are: A Bilingual Gathering of Poems & Stories from Mexico with Paintings from Mexican Artists*](#); edited by Naomi Shihab Nye
- [*A Single Shard*](#) by Linda Sue Park
- [*Esperanza Rising*](#) by Pam Munoz Ryan
- [*Ellington was Not a Street*](#) by Ntozake Shange; illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- [*Boys Without Names*](#) by Kashmir Sheth
- [*The Composition*](#) by Antonio Skarmeta; illustrated by Alfonso Ruano
- [*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*](#) by Mildred D. Taylor
- [*The Mighty Miss Malone*](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis
- [*End Zone*](#) by Tiki Barber, Ronde Barber, and Paul Mantell
- [*Chickadee*](#) by Louise Erdrich
- [*Inside Out and Back Again*](#) by Thanhha Lai
- [*What Color is my World: The Lost history of African-American Inventors*](#) by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld; illustrated by Ben Boos and A.G. Ford
- [*Flying the Dragon*](#) by Natalie Dias Lorenzi; illustrated by Kelly Murphy
- [*Crow*](#) by Barbara Wright

12 Years Old and Up

- [*The Cruisers*](#) by Walter Dean Myers
- [*Lockdown*](#) by Walter Dean Myers

- [*Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*](#) by G. Neri; illustrated by Randy DuBurke
- [*Becoming Billie Holiday*](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford
- [*Keeping the Night Watch*](#) by Hope Anita Smith
- [*I Am the Darker Brother: An Anthology of Modern Poems by African Americans*](#); edited by Arnold Adoff
- [*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*](#) by Alexie Sherman; illustrated by Ellen Fournery
- [*Before We Were Free*](#) by Julia Alvarez
- [*The Heart of a Chief*](#) by Joseph Bruchac
- [*Bowman's Store: A Journey to Myself*](#) by Joseph Bruchac
- [*Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States*](#); edited by Lori Carlson
- [*An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*](#) by Judith Ortiz Cofer
- [*The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo*](#) by Tom Feelings
- [*Little Rock 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration*](#) by Shelley Marie Tougas
- [*True Legend*](#) by Mike Lupica
- [*Pinned*](#) by Sharon G. Flake
- [*The Dead and the Gone*](#) by Susan Beth Pfeffer
- [*Zita and the Spacegirl*](#) by Ben Hatke
- [*Illegal*](#) by Bettina Restrepo
- [*Island's End*](#) by Padma Venkatraman
- [*Deadly*](#) by Julie Chibbaro
- [*Mastiff*](#) by Tamora Pierce

Thank you for participating in the Holiday Project! If you have any questions, please contact:

Event and Donations Team

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Office of Community Relations

Events Line: 412.350.3428

Email: EventandDonationsTeam@AlleghenyCounty.US

Web: www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/holidayproject.aspx