

# Gift Books 2008

– Brought to you by Everett Public Library staff –

The Everett Public Library has a great gift for you this holiday season! Here is a list of wonderful cookbooks, novels, books for kids and teenagers, and music CDs to help you find a special gift for the book and music lovers in your life. Be sure to ask us for more great suggestions!

## Cookbooks

There are so many good cookbooks to choose from this year! Those listed below have received excellent reviews, and many reflect today's emphasis on local, healthy foods. Whether you are purchasing for yourself, for gift giving, or both, you won't go wrong with any of these.

**1. *In Season: Cooking with Vegetables and Fruits*** by Sarah Raven

No nonsense, but "gorgeous" "expansive" and "more than encyclopedic."

**2. *It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time: My Adventures in Life and Food*** by Moira Hodgson

Hodgson is, perhaps, a more reasonable version of Anthony Bourdain. This is not really a cookbook but a delightful retelling of her culinary adventures.

**3. *1080 Recipes*** by Simone Ortega

Spain's favorite cookbook for 30 years running has been revised and updated, and is available in English.

**4. *The Splendid Table's How to Eat Supper: Recipes, Stories, and Opinions*** by Lynne Rossetto Kasper and Sally Swift.

Tasty recipes from the NPR food experts.

**5. *Outstanding in the Field: A Farm to Table Cookbook*** by Jim Denevan with Marah Stets

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Designed to encourage the reader to "reconnect with the land." Features brief biographies of farmers and other food producers.

**6. *The Bon Appétit Fast Easy Fresh Cookbook: 1,100 Quick Dishes for Everynight Cooking*** by Barbara Fairchild

An update of this instant classic, with an emphasis on in-season ingredients.

**7. *The Farm to Table Cookbook: The Art of Eating Locally*** by Ivy Manning

Includes tips on how to shop at a farmers market.

**8. *The Paley's Place Cookbook: Recipes and Stories from the Pacific Northwest*** by the owners of Paley's Place Bistro and Bar in Portland, OR.

**9. *The Scout's Outdoor Cookbook*** by Christine Bulson and Tim Conners

These recipes from *Scouting* magazine's national cooking contest make a great gift for the outdoor enthusiast.

## Fiction

**1. *The Uncommon Reader*** by Alan Bennett

Uncommon indeed – the title refers to none other than the Queen herself, who rediscovers the joy of reading and its life-changing potential. Bennett offers common and uncommon readers alike a brisk and humorous ride.

**2. *Cooperative Village*** by Frances Madeson

Madeson's comic tale includes a stolen library card, the Patriot Act, psychotherapy and – due to extenuating circumstances – a dead neighbor being pushed around on a

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luggage cart. Life and death, freedom and responsibility, ritual and the unorthodox are all handled with deft humor and narrative flair.

### **3. *The Black Tower*** by Louis Bayard

Bayard's suspenseful historical adventure is set in 1818 when real-life former convict and current detective Eugene Vidocq and medical student Hector Carpentier find themselves on the trail of Marie Antoinette's lost son – who was said to have died in the Black Tower in 1795.

### **4. *Anthem*** by Neal Stephenson

On an alternate world where society is divided into scientific monasteries and the "saecular" world of reproduction, business, and other worldly concerns, the "maths" are surprised to be called upon to save their shared planet. Local epic author Stephenson returns to his SF roots in this scientific and philosophical smorgasbord.

### **5. *My Mistress's Sparrow is Dead: Great Love Stories from Chekhov to Munro*** edited by Jeffrey Eugenides

This anthology looks at love from every possible angle – desire, commitment, obsession, recklessness, repetitiveness, loss, and grief. A stellar collection which presents the work of 26 master storytellers from the past 120 years.

### **6. *The Book of Getting Even*** by Benjamin Taylor

A young man estranged from his father goes off to college and finds a new home in the heart of another family. Taylor captures the intimacies, antagonisms, and secrets of these entangled lives with bristling intelligence and vitality in this novel vividly set in the 1970s.

### **7. *Night Train to Lisbon*** by Pascal Mercier

A chance encounter with a woman – and another with a book – propels staid philologist Raimund Gregorius to Lisbon in search of a fascinating, little-known writer who had a profound affect on everyone who knew him. Salazar's dictatorship provides the

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backdrop for Mercier’s exploration of literature, unattainable love, familial devotion, friendship, heretical speeches and soul-searching intelligence. For the literature lover on your list.

## Great gift ideas from the backlist

### 1. *Towers of Trebizond* by Rose Macaulay

This treasure from the backlist features three Brits and their camel traveling through spy-ridden Turkey during the middle of the last century. Armchair travelers and readers of all types will relish Macaulay’s wit and keen observations on travel, love, religion and women’s rights.

### 2. *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* by Giorgio Bassani

An eloquent and nuanced look at the lives and loves of youth in the Jewish section of Ferrara, Italy during World War II. This neglected classic rewards the reader with rich language and characterization.

### 3. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Death narrates this powerful 2006 novel about a girl and her foster parents who resist the extremes of the Nazi party and end up harboring a Jewish man, who comes to seem like family. The characters and the story are equally well developed, and this very personal look at the lives of everyday Germans who quietly resist the practices of the party is striking and memorable.

## Kids

The gift of an exciting, high-quality book can hook kids on the joys of reading! Make sure to read out loud to your kids and set aside time for quiet reading as a family as well. For older kids and teens, find books that match their interests. Ask them for the title of book they enjoyed and then ask a librarian to recommend other “read-alikes” that will appeal to them.

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## Picture Books (preschool through grade 1)

With playful rhythmic language, delightful illustrations, and emotionally vivid stories, picture books can be touch points in a young child's life. Sure to become read out loud favorites, picture books reassure and comfort a child, and the humor in the stories encourages them to laugh. And remember that reading to a child stimulates brain development! Make sure to hold the book at your side so the child can see the pictures as you turn pages and read the story out loud.

### 1. *All Aboard the Dinotrain* by Deb Lund

A crew of dinosaurs loads a train and then starts on a wild ride filled with hilarious mishaps and lots of action.

### 2. *Baby Dragon* by Amy Ehrlich

Waiting for his mother to return, Baby Dragon knows that he must remain by the red fern in this comforting story of learning to obey parental instructions.

### 3. *Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies

When some bats sneak into the library at night through an open window, they find endless fun with the photocopier and drinking fountain, and they discover the joys of books as they make their own story time.

### 4. *Bear Wants More* by Karma Wilson

Bear wakes up in spring with a huge appetite. His animal friends help him find food in the forest, but he wants more and more...until he can't fit through his cave door.

### 5. *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Connor

This first book grew into the much-loved series about the adventures of "Fancy Nancy," a spirited little girl who loves glittery things and to play dress-up, while her family prefers to be definitely less "fancy."

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## **6. *If You Give A Cat a Cupcake* by Laura Numeroff**

A chain of events starts when you give a cat a cupcake and “he’ll ask for sprinkles to go with it.” A book filled with laughs and absurd situations.

## **7. *Knuffle Bunny Too* by Mo Willems**

Trixie can’t wait to bring her toy bunny to school to show and is upset when another little girl has the same toy. After the teacher puts the toys away, Trixie ends up going home with the wrong bunny...but Daddy knows just how to handle the situation!

## **8. *Owen and Mzee: the True Story of a Remarkable Friendship* by Isabella and Craig Hatkoff**

After a tsunami, baby hippo Owen is orphaned and lonely. At a wildlife refuge, he is placed in an area with a grouchy, old giant tortoise that prefers to be alone. They form a friendship that grows into a deep bond. Large colorful photos show the animals as they nurture each other in this amazing true story.

## **9. *Two Bobbies: a True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival* by Kirby Larson**

Bobbi the Dog and Bob Cat have a very special friendship, and when Hurricane Katrina strikes their home they survive by helping each other in some truly surprising ways. But will they ever find a home of their own again?

## **Children’s Fiction (Grades 2-3)**

### **1. *Clementine’s Letter* by Sara Pennypacker**

Spunky, restless, and funny, Clementine is a character with whom kids will identify. When she finds out that her beloved teacher is going leaving, Clementine vows to do anything to stop him, with some hilarious results.

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## **2. *Dinosaur Trouble*** by Dick King-Smith

Nosy, a young Pterodactyl, and Banty, an Apatosaurus, listen to their parents tell them that they are too different to play together. But then they discover what fun they can have, they team up in a terrific friendship and even outwit a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

## **3. *Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society*** by Betsy Byars

The WOOF Society is a secret club for dogs where they get together to tell their own stories. All kinds of dogs tell stories about heroic dogs, strange dogs, funny dogs, dogs in trouble, and even a dog that captures a bank robber...by accident!

## **4. *Judy Moody*** by Megan McDonald

Lots of things make Judy “moody,” and she is always getting into comical mishaps at school and at home with her younger brother, Stink. These popular books about Judy also come as a boxed set of paperbacks: “The Judy Moody Totally Awesome Collection,” a great gift for lower- grade girls.

## **5. *Kenny and the Dragon*** by Tony DiTerlizzi

A brave young rabbit named Kenny makes friends with a huge dragon. All the other animals in the village are terrified, but Kenny shows them that the dragon is really great to have in the neighborhood.

## **6. *Stink and the Great Guinea Pig Express*** by Megan McDonald

When three guinea pigs escape from the local pet shop, Stink and his friends Webster and Sophie try to help and wind up with 101 homeless guinea pigs. This title and the other books in the series about Stink’s adventures are great choices for early elementary school boys.

## **7. *The World’s Greatest Elephant*** by Ralph Helfer

An amazing true story of an orphan boy and a circus elephant who develop a deep and lifelong friendship that survives many separations. After living in different parts of the

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world, they finally end up together again in America. The author owned this famous elephant in the last years of its life and was there to witness the reunion.

## Children's Fiction (Grades 3 to 6)

### 1. *Deep and Dark and Dangerous* by Mary Downing Hahn

A thrilling ghost story that girls will love to share. Thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at a cabin on a lake and finds that her mother has been hiding a family secret from her for many years. A strange girl keeps following Ali, and when she finds a photo of three girls with the head of one torn off, a mystery unfolds.

### 2. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney (Book 1 of a series of 3 books)

A comic look at middle school life from the point of view of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade boy, this book shot to the top of popularity lists, and kids eagerly ask for numbers 2 and 3 in this series. Give the set of three books, and kids will be laughing endlessly at these keen observations about nerdy friends, embarrassing moments, bullying, and popularity.

### 3. *Dragon Rider* by Cornelia Funke

Firedrake, a silver dragon who can absorb moonlight as flight fuel, is on a desperate search for a place safe from humans. Legend tells of a dragon refuge high in the mountains, and he sets off with help from an orphan boy destined to be a “dragon rider.”

### 4. *City of Ember* by Jeanne Duprau (Book 1 of a series of 4 books)

In a future society on a dark, desolate earth, the domed city of Ember is barely surviving as supplies are low and electricity fails. Two 12-year-olds find an old document that hints at a passageway to another civilization, and they set off on a quest that is both terrifying and wonderful.

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## **5. *Erec Rex: The Dragon's Eye* by Kaza Kingsley**

Twelve-year-old Erec has been yanked into a parallel world called Alypium, where the King has been overthrown and everything is in chaos. He must learn to master dangerous magic, complex tools, and face strange beasts as he takes on the role of warrior and leader. The story continues in a second book of superb fantasy, “Erec Rex and the Monsters of Otherness.”

## **6. *Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

A mysterious plane is abandoned at an airport, empty except for 36 babies strapped into their seats. All of the abandoned babies are adopted, and the government chooses to keep this strange event a secret. But years later, two boys decide to investigate their own adoptions, uncovering danger and mystery far beyond what they expected.

## **7. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick**

A magical mystery book, with half of the story told in pictures that read like a flip-book, this is the story of a 12-year-old orphan boy living hidden in the walls of a train station. He struggles to survive and to solve the puzzle of an “automaton,” a mechanical man that his dead father left him. A strange girl and an old man seem menacing but they may have what he needs—but what do they want in return?

## **8. *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd**

Ted and Kat can't wait to take their visiting cousin Salim on their favorite ride, “the London Eye,” a huge observation wheel that towers over the city. After a stranger offers a free ticket to Salim, they watch him board the ride alone, but he never returns. Ted, with his Asperser's Syndrome (he describes it as his “differently wired brain”), is able to pursue hidden clues in this amazing, intelligent mystery that critics are calling one of the best mysteries written for kids in years.

## **9. *Monsterology: The Complete Book of Monstrous Beasts* by Dr. Ernest Drake**

An interactive book full of pop-ups, ancient-looking “manuscripts,” and even an envelope containing “the ashes of a phoenix.” Kids love the feeling of discovery as they learn about all sorts of monsters from mythology and legends.

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## **10. *Philippa Fisher's Fairy Godsisiter* by Liz Kessler**

When Philippa meets her fairy “godsister,” she gets to choose three wishes and she creates a load of problems she never anticipated.

## **11. *Swindle* by Gordon Korman**

Eleven-year-old Griffin could have become a millionaire when he finds an old baseball card, but he sells it to help his father’s failing business. Cheated by an unscrupulous dealer who tells him it’s worth only \$120, Griffin and his friends hatch a wild plan to get the card back.

## **12. *Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May Or May Not Exist* by Kelly Milner Halls**

Kids will marvel at the idea of “cryptids,” legendary creatures that some people claim to have encountered. With drawings, photos, and descriptions of sightings of such creatures as Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster, this book brings these creatures to life. The book includes the cryptids of many other cultures too, like the chupacabra of Mexico, the bunyip of Australia, and the Mongolian Death Worm.

## **13. *Waggit's Tale* by Peter Howe**

A survival tale, told by an abandoned dog that joins a gang of homeless dogs living in a city park. Tazar, the pack leader, teaches Waggit survival skills and how to mistrust humans: “We are our own masters; we owe obedience to no-one.” But finally this tough dog is captured, adopted, and finds many surprises as he begins living with people.

## Teens & Tweens

### **1. *Blue Bloods* by Melissa De la Cruz**

Older teens (grades 9 and up) will savor this vampire thriller. 15-year-old Schuyler and her friends suddenly notice odd changes in their bodies, and learn that they are part of a

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clan of secretive vampires with historic ties to the first colonists in the United States. Another powerful and deadly vampire group is a constant threat as the teens struggle to fulfill their destinies.

## **2. *Cool Stuff Exploded*** by Chris Woodford

An amazing visual trip inside everyday technology and high-tech objects. Computer-generated images allow kids to examine the inner workings of such futuristic objects as holographic television, robotics, nanotechnology, and virtual reality gaming. There's even a CD-ROM that lets interested readers zero in on greater detail. A great gift for teen gamers.

## **3. *The Dangerous Days of Daniel X*** by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge

Fifteen-year-old Daniel has immense powers—he can move objects with his mind, shape-shift, and has the strength to stand up to any enemy on Earth. But the intergalactic criminals who outwitted and killed his father are back, and it will take all of his powers to contend with them.

## **4. *Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best Kept Secrets*** by John Farndon

This playful, mysterious book has a shiny hard cover that looks like the door of a jail cell, and features the warning: “DO NOT OPEN.” A book guaranteed to capture the attention of restless kids and teens as they discover unexplained mysteries, bizarre facts, hoaxes, optical illusions, oddball events, and “secret” systems.

## **5. *Dragon's Keep*** by Janet Lee Carey

This Seattle author weaves a fascinating fantasy in the Arthurian tradition. Princess Rosalind, born with a finger that is a twisted leathery claw, always wears gloves to cover her secret. Rosalind endures captivity and trial for witchcraft, as she struggles to fulfill an ancient prophecy and stand up to a young man who is ready to do battle with a dragon. Eventually her curse leads to her triumph: she learns to be true to herself, and claims her rightful place as queen.

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## **6. *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eighth Grade Bites* by Heather Brewer**

Vladimir juggles all the usual troubles of an 8th grader—annoying bullies, loads of homework, and a crush on a girl who prefers his best friend. But he’s also carrying a dark secret—his father was a vampire, his mother a human, and both parents died years ago leaving him with many questions about himself and who he will become. Teens who enjoy Vladimir will be happy to know that there is a second book in the series entitled *Ninth Grade Slays*.

## **7. *Everlost* by Neal Shusterman**

When their parents’ vans collide head-on, Allie and Nick die at almost the same instant and wake up in an alternate reality called Everlost where they can see the real world and watch events passing before them like a television show. They are soon bored by this phantom world—until they discover that it has a dark and dangerous side...and find a clue to why their souls are trapped in Everlost.

## **8. *The Faerie Path* by Frewin Jones**

Just before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, Anita receives a strange package in the mail. It’s a magical book that leads her into the world of Faerie where she discovers that she is the lost daughter of the king. Anita is caught in a web of danger and fear as opposing forces battle for power in this strange new world—and she struggles to decide which world she belongs to. Book 1 of a series by the same name.

## **9. *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke**

Meggie has always lived alone with her father, and she has no idea that he is keeping secrets from her. He has the power to actually “read” characters out of a book into reality. However he has made some terrible mistakes and one of these characters killed her own mother years before. As Meggie realizes she too has powers, she explores the idea of magic as a force for both good and evil. Book 1 of a series.

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## 10. *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson, who has never known his father, suddenly finds out that he is actually the son of the Greek god Poseidon. Now he is caught up in a world of angry gods and feuding half-human creatures, as he tries to understand what kind of power his heritage gives him. This is the first book in a series entitled *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, and a boxed set of the series might be a cherished gift for older kids and teens, who relish the adventure and mythology in Percy's quest.

## 11. *Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf* by Jennifer Holm

In this hilarious book of colorful visuals, the reader examines pages from Ginny's diary, her IM screen messages, notes to and from her friends, greeting cards, post-it notes and all the "stuff" from her year in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Girls will identify with her problems with friends, boys, clothes, and even a "hair color disaster."

## 12. *Tunnels* by Roderick Gordon

Will's father is an archaeologist, and his favorite activity is digging. He can find and identify fascinating things. Will sometimes digs with him, and together they begin to unearth the tunnels of an abandoned subway train. When his father fails to return home one night, Will and his friend begin a desperate search. They find a colony of weird people who have been hiding underground since the 1700s, a colony filled with secrets and horror.

## 13. *Wicked Lovely* by Melissa Marr

Seventeen-year-old Aislinn has the rare ability to see the faerie folk that move like shadows among us. But her visions are often frightening, and she is drawn into the evil side of the faerie world as the Summer King battles the powerful Winter Queen. A dark and compelling story that will thrill older teens.

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## Music

Are you looking for some new music but want to try before you buy? Then look no further than your local library's music collection. We're known for our quirky classics, but did you know we also have many of today's hot hits?

### Holiday CDs

*Want a great way to liven up your holiday party? Get into the holiday spirit with these new releases from popular artists and groups.*

***Christmas Spirit*** by Los Lonely Boys

***A Swingin' Christmas*** by Tony Bennett

***Christmasville*** by Mannheim Steamroller

***Peace on Earth*** by Casting Crowns

***A New Thought for Christmas*** by Melissa Etheridge

### Music for Kids

*Are your kids bored with music that's so five minutes ago? Try a few of these albums on for size!*

***Choo Choo Soul*** by Choo Choo Soul

***Snacktime*** by Barenaked Ladies

***Juice Box Heroes*** by Imagination Movers

***Pop Go the Wiggles!*** by The Wiggles

***Disneymania 6*** by Various

***Rhyming Circus*** by Ralph's World

***Mamma Mia 4 Kids*** by Various

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***Wicked 4 Kids*** by Various

## **Indie Artists**

*The library has recently acquired many great indie albums. Each has its own unique sound, perfect if you're seeking the unexpected.*

***Free Gold!*** by Indian Jewelry

***Two Gallants*** by Two Gallants

***Ice Cream Spiritual*** by Ponytail

***Volume One*** by She & Him

***Oracular Spectacular*** by MGMT

***Made in the Dark*** by Hot Chip

***Vampire Weekend*** by Vampire Weekend

***You Have No Idea What You're Getting Yourself Into*** by Does That Offend You, Yeah?

## **Off the Charts**

*Have you heard it on the radio? Then you can find it at the library! We have many new CDs by top artists in a multitude of styles.*

## **Rock**

***All Hope Is Gone*** by Slipknot

***Perfect Symmetry*** by Keane

***The Illusion of Progress*** by Staind

***Modern Guilt*** by Beck

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***Big Bad World*** by The Plain White T's

***The Saints of Los Angeles*** by Motley Crue

***Songs from the Sparkle Lounge*** by Def Leppard

## Pop

***A Little Bit Longer*** by The Jonas Brothers

***Breakout*** by Miley Cyrus

***Doll Domination*** by The Pussycat Dolls

***Rockferry*** by Duffy

***Hard Candy*** by Madonna

## R&B

***Joe Thomas, New Man*** by Joe

***Something Else*** by Robin Thicke

***E=MC2*** by Mariah Carey

***Spirit*** by Leona Lewis

***Lay It Down*** by Al Green

***Shine*** by Estelle

## Jazz

***Lifecycle*** by Yellowjackets

***November*** by Jeremy Pelt

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***This is a Bird*** by Alison Ruble

***Thunder*** by Various

***Present Tense*** by James Carter

## Country

***Lucky Old Sun*** by Kenny Chesney

***Love on the Inside*** by Sugarland

***Now That's What I Call Country!*** By Various

## World

***Let the Music Play 4*** (India)

***In the Name of Love: Africa Celebrates U2*** (Africa)

***Residente o Visitante by Calle 13*** (Latin-America)

***Emotionally Yours*** by Tanhai (India)

***Celtic Thunder*** by Celtic Thunder (Ireland)