

October, 2007

Children's Books for Telling in Church #5

Max's Words.

Banks, Kate. Foster Books, 2006. E Ban

When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers the same way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling. Themes: Creativity, Learning, Siblings.

Waiting for Christmas: a story about the Advent Calendar.

Bostrom, Kathleen Long. Zonderkidz, 2006. E Bos

Young Gerhard can hardly wait for Christmas to come, and when Advent begins, he starts erasing chalk lines from the door and eating a special cookie every evening to mark the passing days. Includes directions for Advent crafts and activities.

Wemberly Worried.

Henkes, Kevin. Greenwillow, 2000. E Hen

Wemberly, a little mouse, worries about everything, then discovers she must worry about a whole bunch more when she begins nursery school. Themes: New beginnings; making friends, worry.

Harold and the Purple Crayon.

Johnson, Crockett. Harper Collins, 1993. E Joh

This old classic book would be cool to use with children, youth or families (yes, even adults) in a setting where they could be prompted to spend time in

creativity and drawing. Harold has much imagination and when stuck, finds new options. Themes: creativity, imagination, trying out new solutions. Note: when using this, it is mandatory to use a big fat purple crayon to draw something!

When Mommy Was Mad.

Jonell, Lynne. Putnam's, 2002. E Jon

A young boy helps his mother realize how her bad mood is affecting everyone in the family. Themes: Emotions, conflict resolution, being sorry.

Jungle Bullies.

Kroll, Stephen. Marshall Cavendish, 2006. E Kro

To get what they want, the larger jungle animals bully the smaller ones until Mama Monkey shows them the benefits of sharing. Themes: Sharing, standing up for yourself, conflict resolution.

The Teddy Bear.

McPhail, David. Henry Holt, 2002. E McP

A teddy bear is lost by the young boy who loves him. The bear is then found by a homeless man who adopts him, but is spied by the young boy in a park. When the boy sees how much the bear means to the man, he gives it to him. Themes: compassion, generosity, empathy.

Conference Resource Library

2517 North Main Street North Newton, Kansas 67117

Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant

crlib@mennowdc.org 316-283-6300 www.mennowdc.org on-line catalog

Reach Out and Give.

Meiners, Cheri J. Free Spirit, 2006. J 179.9 Mei

Simple words and illustrations show children that sharing their time and talents is a wonderful way to express gratitude. Includes activity guide for adults to use with children. Themes: Sharing, generosity, gratitude.

The Dot.

Reynolds, Peter H. Candlewick, 2003. E Rey

Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but through a teacher's encouragement, she changes her mind and eventually encourages others to be themselves and be creative. Themes: Creativity, artists, individuality, self-awareness.

Cookies: bite-size life lessons.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. HarperCollins, 2006. E Ros.

Each page displays a cookie-themed dictionary with illustrations of animals or children showing cooperation, being polite, optimism, and more. Themes: Behavior, character building, good attributes. Hint: this story best served with cookies!

One of Those Days.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. Putnam's, 2006. E Ros.

Illustrations of children demonstrate that even when you are having an Itchy Sweater Day, a Sad for no Reason Day or an Annoying Sibling Day, you can expect a better day tomorrow. Themes: Ups and downs of Life, good attitudes, moods.

Cups Held Out.

Roth, Judith L. Herald Press, 2006. E Rot

A girl and her father drive from San Diego to Mexico, where they encounter poor children and beggars and they ponder their feelings of guilt and their responsibility to those who live in poverty. Themes: poverty, outreach, understanding other cultures.

Plant a Seed of Peace.

Seiling, Rebecca. Herald Press, 2007. J 284.30922 Sei

Includes 43 delightfully illustrated stories of peacemakers from today and the past that will capture the imagination of children of all ages. Their lives point to something beyond themselves to a transforming faith in God.

Handy indexes of scriptural verses and faith themes are included in back of book. Destined to be a "Mennonite Classic." One for every family is recommended!

Effie's Image.

Sharp, N. L. Prairieland Press, 2004. E Sha

An elderly woman finds new meaning for her life when she volunteers at an elementary school. Themes: Inter-generational friendship, volunteering, meaning in life.

When Christmas Came.

Spinelli, Ellen. Ideals. 2006. E Spi

As snow drifts higher and higher, the pastor of a small country church worries that no one will attend Christmas Eve services, but soon an unusual congregation gathers and shares the season. Perfect for Christmas-time!

Jubilee.

Yeomans, Ellen. Illustrated by Tim Ladwig. Eerdmans, 2004. E Yeo

Depicts a warm and lively view of heaven as friends and families from many cultures and age groups gather to celebrate the Jubilee. Themes: Afterlife, heaven, celebrating Christian community together.

A Little Story about a Big Turnip.

Zunshine, Tatiana. Pumpkin House, 2003. E Zun

This is a retelling of a Russian folktale, where one person cannot pull a turnip out of the ground, but must enlist the help of everyone on the farm, including the tiniest of animals, the mouse. Themes: cooperation, teamwork, metaphor for the congregation working together to be faithful.

The Secret of Saying Thanks.

Wood, Douglas. Simon & Schuster, 2005. E Woo

A child learns to say thank you for the natural world, for being loved and learns that a grateful heart is always happy. Themes: Gratitude, thanksgiving, appreciation of natural world.

FIND MORE listings of children's books appropriate for sharing in worship or faith formation, at our library page at www.mennowdc.org, then click Check It Out, then click Archive. Yippee!!