

Winter Reading

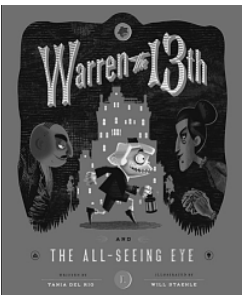
If you're looking forward to a holiday break full of time to relax and read good books, The Mini Page has you covered. Check out these new titles from the library, or add them to your Christmas list!

Adventure

- When John Howland, a young servant for John Carver, sets off across the Atlantic Ocean from Plymouth, England, he can't imagine the difficulties and challenges that lie ahead. But he becomes an important citizen of the Plymouth colony in New England.
- Warren is a 12-year-old bellhop at a run-down hotel that he will someday own. His uncle and aunt run the place, but they haven't had any guests in a very long time. When a mysterious guest does arrive, Warren begins to uncover secrets that may threaten his future as the hotel owner.



"The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland's Good Fortune" is written and illustrated by P.J. Lynch.



"Warren the 13th & the All-Seeing Eye" is written by Tania Del Rio and illustrated by Will Staehle.



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Humor

- Bird has always been the leader, but when he gets amnesia on their journey home, Squirrel must overcome his fears and keep himself, Bird and a bear cub safe as they travel over the mountains. Readers of other "Bird & Squirrel" books will love this new adventure.
- Bobbie has decided not to participate in Christmas this year, but she still wants her little brother, Tad, to have a great holiday. But to get what he really wants, she'll have to travel with weird Uncle Dale and some unusual elves to the North Pole to get Tad off the Naughty List.

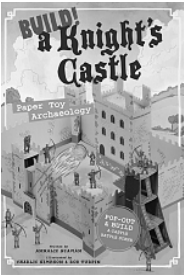


"The Naughty List" is written by Michael Fry and Bradley Jackson and illustrated by Michael Fry.



"Bird & Squirrel On the Edge!" by author and illustrator James Burks.

- "Build a Knight's Castle: Paper Toy Archaeology" is by Annalie Seaman. It is illustrated by Charlie Simpson and Rob Turpin.



Sports

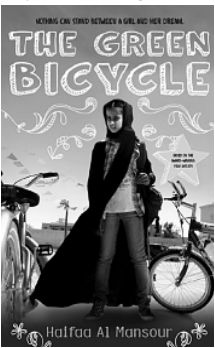
- What were your sports heroes like as kids? It's easy to forget that they had regular-kid problems just like all children do.
- Author David Stabler gives readers an inside look at sports legends from Babe Ruth to Danica Patrick.



photo courtesy Quirk Books

Inspiration

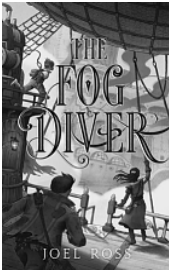
- Wadjda is an 11-year-old girl who lives with her family in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In her country, it's considered improper for a girl to ride a bicycle. But Wadjda really wants to race with her friend Abdullah.
- She hatches a plan to save enough money to buy her own bike. "The Green Bicycle" is based on the movie "Wadjda" by filmmaker Haifaa Al Mansour.



"The Green Bicycle" is written by author and filmmaker Haifaa Al Mansour.

Fantasy

- It's years in the future, and humans now live on mountaintops to escape a deadly white mist that covers the planet. Chess and his friends survive by diving into the fog to find any left-behind treasures and then selling them. But Chess also has a valuable secret that might save them.



"The Fog Diver" is by Joel Ross.

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of reading are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ACTIVITY, ADVENTURE, AUTHOR, BOOK, BREAK, CHALLENGE, FANTASY, FILMMAKER, FUN, HOLIDAY, HUMOR, ILLUSTRATOR, INSPIRE, MYSTERY, READING, RELAX, SPORTS, TITLE, WINTER.

J H F U N E C R E R I P S N I
S Y U I Y W R H O L I D A Y Y
G P S M L T I U A H V B B B R
T N O A O M I N T L T N Q R E
I K I R T R M V T N L U K E T
T O J D T N L A I E E E A A S
L O Z M A S A R K T R V N K Y
E B X A L E R F V E C Y D G M
I L L U S T R A T O R A L A E

Cook's Corner

Corny Cheese Soup

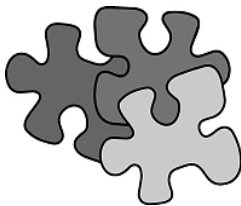
- You'll need:**
- 2 (11-ounce) cans whole yellow corn
 - 1 (10-ounce) can condensed cheddar cheese soup
 - 2 cups chicken broth
 - 1 cup reduced-fat milk
 - 6 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
 - 18 to 24 tortilla chips, crushed
- What to do:**
1. Add corn, condensed soup, chicken broth and milk to a large soup pot.
 2. Heat slowly to boiling, stirring frequently.
 3. After boiling, reduce heat and allow to simmer for 8 to 10 minutes.
 4. Meanwhile, cook bacon according to directions.
 5. Pour soup into individual bowls. Top with crumbled bacon and crushed chips divided evenly among the bowls. Makes 6 servings.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

Puzzling

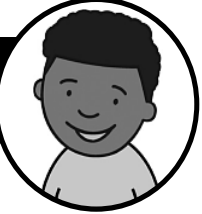
Unscramble the words below that remind us of school breaks.



yafmil _____
meti _____
uteiq _____
ahidoly _____

Answers: family, time, quiet, holiday.

Mini Jokes



- Sam:** What says "Ho, ho, ho" and would make a great sandwich with peanut butter?
- Solomon:** Jelly Ole St. Nick!

Eco Note



In Zimbabwe, a troop of **rogue**, or naughty, baboons forced a radio station off the air after they chewed through the station's fiber-optic cable at the mountaintop transmitter. Engineers investigating the outage saw baboons scurrying away.

For later:

Make a list of the five best books you've read this year. Share your list with a friend or classmate. Pick two from your friend's list to read over the holiday break.

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

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