

Cozy Up with a Good Book

I love to read. No surprise, right? I don't need a reason to pick up a book, but winter seems like a perfect time to grab a book (or two), curl up on the couch and settle in for some exciting out-of-this-world adventures, stories of relationships and families, or just about people trying to make sense of the world they live in. I picked just a handful of titles to share with you from the Children's and Teen Departments. I hope you find one to read on a cold day!

Smitten by David Gordon – This adorable picture book tells the story of a mitten and a sock that have lost their pairs. They team up to find their other halves, but through the course of their adventures they realize they make the perfect pair. Ages 4-8

The Sea Serpent and Me by Dashka Slater – A touching story with beautiful illustrations, this picture book tells the story of an unusual friendship. A sea serpent makes its way through the faucet during a little girl's bath. She decides to help the sea serpent return to the ocean. While waiting for the rain to stop, the girl and the sea serpent become great friends. Ages 4-8

Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban – In this fantastic novel, Zoe Elias is a ten-year-old girl who dreams of playing the piano. Not only does she want to play, but she wants to be a prodigy and perform at Carnegie Hall. To accomplish this she needs a piano. Unfortunately, her father buys her an organ! Although disappointed, Zoe gives the organ a try. Over the next six months she deals with her workaholic mother, her crazy father, and changes at school while practicing for her first recital. Can the organ replace her dream for a piano? Ages 9-12

The Canning Season by Polly Horvath – This fascinating book tells the story of a thirteen-year-old girl named Ratchet. Neglected and friendless, Ratchet is shipped off to her eccentric great-aunts, Tilly and Penpen, elderly twin sisters who live in bear-infested woods in Maine. Harper, another girl abandoned to live with Tilly and Penpen, rounds out a group of strangers who, ultimately, becomes a family. Over the summer, her great-aunts share grisly and offbeat stories from their lives, leading up to the annual canning season. Grades 6 and up

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins – A fast-paced sci-fi adventure full of suspense, this book is centered on Katniss, a 16-year-old girl who volunteers to take her younger sister's place in the Hunger Games. The game is a competition that pits 24 young people against each other in the ultimate battle – only one person is allowed to survive. Katniss has spent years hunting for her family, but will her skills keep her alive? Grades 7 and up

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie – A hilarious and poignant account of Arnold Spirit (aka Junior), a Spokane Indian who decides to leave the reservation and go to an all-white school. Junior, a budding cartoonist, uses humor and determination to deal with being caught between two cultures. Grades 7 and up

Spanking Shakespeare by Jake Wizner – A laugh-out-loud tale about Shakespeare Shapiro, a 17-year-old who is trying to survive his senior year of high school. He's embarrassed by his parents, envious of his younger brother, and wants a girlfriend. His senior project for English is to write his memoir, which he uses to humorously share the details of his life, embarrassments and all. Grades 10 and up

Hopefully one (or all!) of these titles interest you. If not, just make a trip to the library to browse through the thousands of other books we have for you. Or you can ask anyone at the Children's Desk for suggestions, recommendations, or read alikes based on your favorite books. So grab a book and settle in for a good read this winter!

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