



2011 Books

Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature at the Concord Museum

November 23, 2011 – January 1, 2012

The books chosen for *Family Trees 2011* are a mix of classics, all-time favorites and wonderful new books. This year, the beloved children's book author and illustrator Tomie dePaola has generously agreed to serve as the Honorary Chair of *Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature*. Tomie will be visiting the Concord Museum for a reading and book signing on December 4. Tomie was recently awarded the Laura Ingalls Wilder award by the American Library Association. He has also received a Newbery Honor, a Caldecott Honor, the Smithsonian Medal and the Regina Medal.

Strega Nona's Gift, by Tomie dePaola

Starring two of Tomie dePaola's best-loved characters, this funny story features beautiful art, introduces young readers to Italian holiday traditions, and lands Big Anthony in yet another silly predicament that will delight fans young and old.

The Snow Queen, by Hans Christian Andersen, retold by Sarah Lowes, illustrated by Miss Clara

An exquisitely illustrated retelling of the classic story in which Gerda, helped by kind strangers and guided by her warm heart, makes the perilous journey to rescue her friend from the icy palace of the Snow Queen. We are honored to have the illustrator, Miss Clara, decorating this *Family Tree*.

The Berenstain Bears and the Missing Dinosaur Bone, by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Stan and Jan Berenstain met in art school in 1941 and went on to write more than 50 books together. Their now famous family of bears first appeared in 1962. In this adventure, the Bear Detectives come to the aid of Dr. Bear at the Bear Museum. With less than an hour to spare, the cubs must find the missing dinosaur bone so that everyone can enjoy the dinosaur exhibit. Costumed characters Mama and Papa Bear will be visiting the Concord Museum on December 24, 31, and January 1.

Guess How Much I Love You, by Sam McBratney, illustrated by Anita Jeram

This tender picture book has become a modern classic for millions of children and their families at bedtimes. Little Nutbrown Hare will be visiting the Concord Museum on December 3 and 4.

Ladybug Girl, by Jacky Davis and David Soman

Festively dressed in red-and-black polka-dot wings, a red tutu, and antennae, Lulu is "Ladybug Girl," and she's ready for fun. This entertaining, positive story that shows how everyday activities can inspire creativity, fun, and self-confidence was the first in this bestselling series. Ladybug Girl will be visiting the Concord Museum on December 17 & 18.

If You Give a Pig a Pancake, by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond

Laura Numeroff's endearing mouse in *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* launched a series which introduces other delightful animal characters and their stories of actions and consequences. Pig will be visiting the Concord Museum on December 10 & 11.

Alice through the Looking Glass, by Lewis Carroll, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

When Alice steps through the looking glass in Oxenbury's illustrated book, she steps into a world depicted in warm watercolors, sepia-toned illustrations, and line drawings that echo the whimsy of the original language.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, by L. Frank Baum, first illustrated by William Wallace Denslow
First published in 1900, this fantastical and inspiring story of friendship in adversity has become an American icon.

The Hundred Dresses, by Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin
This charmingly illustrated novella from 1944 tells a timeless story that teaches the difficult lesson about how even words alone can cause hurt to others.

Pippi Longstocking, by Astrid Lindgren
This 1945 story about a wild, funny, and unusually strong 9-year-old, who lives alone except for a horse and monkey, was an instant hit when it was first published and has gained worldwide popularity ever since.

The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg
This Caldecott Medal winner that has become a family read-aloud classic in homes the world over celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott
“Christmas won’t be Christmas” without a tree inspired by this treasured Concord classic. The Concord Players have produced a stage version of *Little Women* every ten years since 1932, with the exception of 1942; the next production is spring 2012.

Grandpa Green, written and illustrated by Lane Smith
In his most enigmatic and beautiful work to date, Lane Smith explores aging, memory, and the bonds of family history and love; by turns touching and whimsical, it’s a stunning picture book that parents and grandparents will be sharing with children for years to come.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee, by Philip Christian Stead, illustrated by Erin Stead
Friends come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. In Amos McGee’s case, all sorts of species, too! Every day he spends a little bit of time with each of his friends at the zoo. But when Amos is too sick to make it to the zoo, his animal friends decide it’s time they returned the favor. The 2010 Caldecott award winner.

How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids, written by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer, illustrated by Maurie J. Manning
Through the story of a little boy named Felix, this charming book explains to children how being kind not only helps others, it helps them, too.

The Little Red Pen, by Janet Stevens, illustrated by Susan Stevens Crummel
Poor Little Red Pen! She can’t possibly correct a mountain of homework all by herself. Who will help her? There’s no lack of trial and error, hilarious chaos, and creative problem-solving in this mission! Kids—and adults—will never see their school supplies in quite the same way again.

Drum City, by Thea Guidone, illustrated by Vanessa Newton
Leaning against a tree and beating a kettle with a spoon and whisk, a smiling young drummer seems to be in the zone, mesmerized by his own beats. An exuberant crowd quickly gathers, and as hundreds and hundreds of kid drummers march down the streets, they turn the heads of the ho-hum passersby. No one can resist the beat of the drum, and the parade makes the world smile and join in.

Bridget’s Beret, written and illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld
Bridget loves drawing, but she feels what’s most important to her artistic sense is her black beret. So when the wind blows it away, Bridget is stricken. She puts up posters and files a “Missing Beret” report, but to no avail. Having lost her hat, Bridget also loses her ability to draw in this smart, saucy book about inspiration and hard work.

The Weaver, by Thacher Hurd, illustrated by Elisa Kleven

An industrious girl in a red dress sits high above the earth on a cloud with her pet cat. She watches the world and sings while she spins thread "from trails of shooting stars, white clouds, and spiderwebs hung with dew." She uses "the colors of the morning" to dye the thread and begins to weave.

Christmas Cookies: Bite-Size Holiday Lessons, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Jane Dyer

Amy Krouse Rosenthal skillfully, yet simply, represents concepts of the heart by relating them to every child's clear understanding and love of cookies. Delightful ink-and-watercolor illustrations and a sugar-cookie recipe are an integral part of this sweet yet wholesome Christmas offering.

Orange Peel's Pocket, by Rose Lewis, illustrated by Grace Zong

A Chinese American adopted child, nicknamed Orange Peel by her parents, realizes that she knows little of her birthplace. After school, she and her mother set off in their neighborhood to discover her heritage. She visits the tailor, an antique store, a florist, a noodle shop, and an ice-cream place, all with Chinese proprietors. Each one gives her a tiny history lesson and, as she leaves, secretly drops a memento into the pocket of her dress. The next day she is ready to use her trinkets to tell her class about her homeland.

Under the Snow, by Melissa Stewart illustrated by Constance R. Bergum

This lyrical tour of a variety of animal habitats includes glowing watercolors that perfectly capture the wonder and magic that can happen under the snow. The pauses are so full of quiet, they seem to evoke a sense of winter as much as the words do.

Coyote Places the Stars, by Harriet Peck Taylor

Based on a Wasco Native American legend, this dramatically illustrated pourquoi tale explains the designs of the constellations. It is the curious coyote who decides to discover the secrets of the heavens by creating a ladder of arrows he shoots into the sky. Once in the heavens, he moves the stars around forming the shapes of his animal friends, and he calls them all together to enjoy his handiwork.

A Pocketful of Posies, by Salley Mavor

This hand-picked collection of classic nursery rhymes are all delicately and painstakingly illustrated by Salley Mavor, who is reknowned for her incredibly detailed fabric and cloth scenes.

Snowballs, by Lois Ehlert

Children who believe snowmen must have charcoal eyes and carrot noses will be inspired by Ehlert's unique adornments, for each creation here is decorated with the narrator's cache of "good stuff in a sack." Mom's hair is a Guatemalan belt; boy's nose is a toy compass; baby's arms are plastic picnic forks; dog's spots are a collection of buttons. Along the way, learn some winter facts and try a recipe for popcorn balls.

Butterflies in the Garden, written and illustrated by Carol Lerner

This picture book uses Lerner's winning combination of beautiful, precise, pen-and-watercolor illustrations and simple, clear explanations of science. The engaging text describes how butterflies eat, introduces distinguishing characteristics of a few species, gives a basic overview of the life cycle from caterpillar to butterfly, and describes plants that attract butterflies to the garden.

Willow and the Snow Day Dance, by Denise Brenner-Nelson, illustrated by Cyd Moore

Willow loves her new house and neighborhood. She loves the summer and planting her garden. She loves the fall and sharing vegetables with her neighbors. And when winter arrives, she loves that, too. She can't wait for the first snowfall because she has found the perfect hill for sledding. And it's right behind grumpy Mr. Larch's house. Can Willow melt his cold heart in time to enjoy a Snow Day?

Winter Days in the Big Woods, by Laura Ingalls Wilder

For millions of readers Laura lives on forever as the little pioneer girl in the beloved *Little House* books. In this one, Laura helps Ma and Pa make the little log cabin snug and cozy for the snowy days ahead.

Yankee Doodle by Richard Shackburg, illustrated by Ed Emberley

In this classic, Caldecott award-winning author and illustrator Ed Emberley fashioned exceptional woodcut illustrations to accompany the complete lyrics to "Yankee Doodle Dandy" along with historical facts about the song.

Dear Mermaid, by Alan Durant, illustrated by Vanessa Cabban

On her first day of vacation, Holly finds a mermaid's purse on the beach. She wants to give it back, but has a few questions for the mermaid first. Imagine how thrilled Holly is the next day to find the purse again, with a letter inside — and a request to help find a mysterious gold key!

Bats at the Ballgame by Brian Lies

You think humans are the only ones who enjoy America's national pastime? Grab your bat--the other kind--and your mitt, and join these captivating bats as they flutter off to watch their all-stars compete. How about a mothdog? Or some Cricket Jack?

Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry

Folksy rhyming stanzas introduce readers to Blue, the eponymous pickup truck, and the barnyard critters he greets as he navigates the country roads near his farmhouse. This enchanting, toddler-entrancing symphony of animal noises and beeps mimics the bouncing of the truck, and the warm folk-art illustrations call to mind the paintings of Grandma Moses.

Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type, by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin

The literacy rate in Farmer Brown's barn goes up considerably once his cows find an old typewriter and begin typing. To the harassed farmer's dismay, his communicative cows quickly become contentious.

Grandma Drove the Snowplow, by Katie Clark, illustrated by Amy Huntington

When Christmas celebrations are jeopardized, not even the heaviest snowfall of the year stands in the way of Grandma once she resolves to bring yuletide cheer to the Maine town she calls home.

Three Little Kittens, by Jerry Pinkney

The well-known nursery rhyme gets the Pinkney touch in this sumptuous edition. The cherubic felines on the front cover invite readers to follow their mishaps from acquiring the mittens, to losing them, to finding them, to getting them all dirty, to washing them, and—judging from the exuberance of the final spread—losing them again. Pinkney's energetic kittens need every inch of each spread to tell their story.

A Giraffe Goes to Paris, by Mary Tavener Holmes and John Harris, illustrated by Jon Cannell

Imagine a giraffe that can sail from Alexandria, Egypt, to Marseille, France, in a boat with a special hole for her neck. Imagine a giraffe that captures the attention of a hundred thousand spectators in Paris as she parades through the city, inspiring paintings, poetry, porcelain designs, and even an exotic hairstyle. Imagine Belle, a gift from the pasha of Egypt to the king of France in 1827, a giraffe who made history.

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Annotations to this list are drawn from Amazon.com, School Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, and *1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up*.

