

75 Holiday Read-Aloud Picture Books



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75 Holiday Read-Aloud Picture Books

This is a list of 75 holiday read-aloud books that can be enjoyed by children who are a variety of ages, but I feel like they work best for ages 3-8 years old. There is a photo of the cover of each book as well as a brief description.

I own a few of these books. Most of them I check out from my public library. They are also available on Amazon.com as new, used or kindle books.

This list is meant to be a guide. We all have different needs, tastes and interests. Please review the books on this list and make sure they are a good fit for the children you will be reading to. You are the best person to decide which books will provide an enjoyable reading experience for the children you love!

75 Holiday Read-Aloud Picture Books



75 Holiday Read-Aloud Picture Books

Organized By Topic and Color

Christmas | 16 Books
Winter | 4 Books
Groundhog's Day | 4 Books
Valentine's Day | 8 Books
St Patrick's Day | 3 Books
Spring, Easter, Bunny | 12 Books
Fourth of July | 4 Books
Halloween | 16 Books
Fall | 4 Books
Thanksgiving | 4 Books

75 Holiday Read-Aloud Picture Books





Mrs Claus Takes the Reins by Sue Fliess

Santa wakes up on Christmas Eve day with a cold. Mrs Claus jumps into action and says she will deliver all the gifts for the children. With help from the elves and Santa's reindeer Mrs. Claus is off! The job is a little more complicated than she thought, but she solves problems along the way and returns to the North Pole with ten minutes to spare.



Five More Sleeps Until Christmas by Jimmy Fallon

A little boy is so excited for Christmas he is counting how many more "sleeps" until the big day. As he counts he also shares all the preparations that are happening as he anxiously waits for Santa to come. Big, colorful illustrations and a catchy rhyme make this book a joy to read-aloud.



A Merry Moosey Christmas by Lynn Plourde

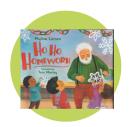
Rudolph wants Christmas Eve off for a change. He and Santa look for someone to replace him. They consider several different animals then choose Moose to lead the sleigh. It takes a lot of training and extra gear, but Moose is ready to go on Christmas Eve!



Dasher by Matt Tavares

This story is about how a reindeer named Dasher escaped from a traveling circus. She meets Santa who is pulling his sleigh full of toys with one horse. Dasher offers to help. She has never done anything so thrilling, but she misses her family. Dasher and Santa rescue Dasher's family from the circus and they become Santa's team of eight reindeer and live happily ever after at the North Pole.





Ho Ho Homework by Mylisa Larsen

It's December and Jack's school class has a sub named Mr. Clausen. He looks a lot like Santa! Could it be? Mr. Clausen teaches the class to make paper snowflake wishes. The end of the book shows you how to make your own paper snowflakes.



Finding Christmas by Lezlie Evans

Hare, Mouse and Squirrel are busy in their burrow getting ready for Christmas. When Mouse goes out to look for a gift for Hare she finds a sick swallow in the snow. The three friends bring Swallow home and try to help her get better. Soon they have used the gifts they made for each other to help Swallow heal. They all enjoy a cozy Christmas filled with friendship and love.



Bear Stays Up For Christmas by Karma Wilson

Bear's friends don't want him to miss Christmas this year. They help him stay awake by having him help find a Christmas tree, bake treats, hang up stockings etc. Bear enjoys making gifts for his friends while they nap. He even gets a surprise visit from Santa. Look for other delightful "Bear" stories by this author.



Last Stop On The Reindeer Express by Maudie Powell-Tuck

This book is filled with beautiful illustrations, doors that open and peek through holes. It tells the story of Mia and how she finds a magic door to a mailbox. It leads her to a magic reindeer that magically takes her the long distance to her grandfather so she can give him the Christmas card she made for him.





Little Red Sleigh by Erin Guendelsberger

The little red sleigh longs to become Santa's big red sleigh so she decides to take a journey and try to find the North Pole and Santa. She doesn't meet Santa, but she finds the love of a little girl and learns the joy of making others happy.



The Christmas Owl by Ellen Kallish and Gideon Sterer

This is a charming story about the little owl that lived in the tree that was cut down in 2020 and delivered to the Rockefeller Center in NYC for Christmas. It is co-written by Ellen Kalish who was the caretaker that helped Rocky return to better health and return to the wild. It is a story of friendship, compassion and finding the true meaning of this special time of year. Based on a true story.



The Most Wonderful Gift In The World by Mark Sperring

Esme and Bear wake up on Christmas morning and discover a gift under the tree that's not for either of them. The tag says, "For Little Bunny Boo-Boo. love, Santa". They decide they need to find Little Bunny Boo-Boo and deliver the gift even though the snow is high and the wind is strong.



The Tree That's Meant To Be by Yuval Zommer

A little fir tree believes he is too small and imperfect to be chosen by a family for their Christmas Tree. With all the trees around him cut down he is lonely until the animals in the forest find him. They fill his branches with feathers, berries and leaves until he is a festive Christmas tree.





Pete The Cat's 12 Days of Christmas by Kimberly and James Dean

Our grandkids love this book with a crazy twist on the traditional song. They like it even better when grandpa reads it to them!



There Was No Snow On Christmas Eve by Pamela Munoz Ryan

There was no snow on the first Christmas Eve. Instead, a dry wind blew. This a beautiful retelling of the familiar nativity story with soft pastel illustrations. It is a gentle reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.



Mortimer's Christmas Manger by Karma Wilson

Mortimer thinks he has found the perfect little house. He has to climb a tree with lights to get to it and move the little people statues so there is room for him to sleep in it. Then he hears one of the big people tell the story of the first Christmas and the manger. Mortimer's heart is touched. Now he understands his house is the stable for baby Jesus and he carefully places the little pieces back in the stable.



Humphrey's First Christmas by Carol Heyer

This is the story of Humphrey, one of the camels that traveled with the three wise men to Bethlehem. Humphrey forgets the hardships of traveling so far when he meets the baby born in a humble stable. This story is a good reminder of the importance of giving and the spirit of Christmas.



Winter Books



A Loud Winter's Nap by Katy Hudson

Tortoise is trying to find a quiet place to hibernate for the winter. Just as he settles in to sleep one of his animal friends invites him to join them in a winter activity. Tortoise hates winter and the cold. When he finally finds a quiet place to sleep, his bed, which is a sled, starts to slide down the mountain. He finds he likes the fast ride down the mountain. Maybe winter isn't that bad.



The Mitten by Jan Brett

Nicki goes out to play in the snow and drops one of the white mittens his grandmother knit for him. Soon different woodland animals find it one by one and crawl inside to stay warm. The knitting holds tight and the mitten grows bigger and bigger to accommodate all the animals. Jan Brett's illustrations are always delightful with the border illustrations telling a story inside the story.



Over And Under The Snow by Kate Messner (series)

A father and his child cross country ski through a forest. They discover and discuss the birds and animals they see and the secret kingdom of animals under the snow. A beautiful nature book that even young children will enjoy. The author gives more details about the animals at the end for those that want to learn more.



Learning To Ski With Mr. Magee by Chris Van Dusen

Mr Magee decides it's time to learn to ski. He puts his dog, Dee, in a backpack and away they go. When they see a moose ahead they have a near miss and land in an unexpected place. When you read-aloud one of the several Mr Magee books you find plenty of reasons to laugh and smile.

Winter Read-Aloud Picture Books



Groundhog's Day Books



Groundhug Day by Anne Marie Pace

This cute book has a little bit of several holidays in it: Groundhog's Day and Valentine's Day with a brief mention of St Patrick's Day and Easter. I was so impressed with this clever, beautifully illustrated story I bought one for my grandchildren so they could enjoy reading it again and again.



Groundhog's Dilemma by Kristen Remenar

When Groundhog sees his shadow half of his friends are happy and the others are sad. The rest of the year they try to convince him to predict the weather the way they want it to be. Groundhog can't please everyone so he just calls it like he sees it and still hopes they will be his friends.



Groundhog Gets A Say by Pamela Curtis Swallow

The groundhog wants people to know he can do more than show up once a year and look for his shadow. In this clever story we learn more about groundhogs and their characteristics



Groundhog's Runaway Shadow by David Biedrzycki

Phil Groundhog and his shadow are best friends and do everything together. After a while they start to irritate each other. Phil's shadow runs away and travels to far away places. Soon they miss each other and are reunited. A fun book with a brief mention of Groundhog's Day at the end.

Groundhog's Day Read-Aloud Picture Books



Valentine's Day Books



Love, Ruby Valentine by Laurie Friedman

Ruby's favorite day is Valentine's Day. She and her pet parrot, Lovebird, work so hard making treats and cards to deliver to everyone in town. Exhausted, they fall asleep and wake up after the holiday is over. Lovebird convinces Ruby to deliver her gifts even though they are late. She discovers its the love that matters, not the date of the holiday.



Ruby Valentine Saves the Day by Laurie Friedman

Ruby and her parrot, Lovebird, planned a Valentine's Party for all her friends in town. Ruby is disappointed when she wakes up to a big snowstorm on Valentine's Day and her friends can't make it up the mountain to her home. She loads her sleigh with treats and cards and takes her party to the people in town. It didn't turn out as she planned, but it was still a day filled with love and celebrating!



The Night Before Valentine's Day by Natasha Wing

A fun rhyming story that tells all the preparations children make the night before Valentine's Day and their school class party.



Love, Splat by Rob Scotton

Splat the cat made a very special Valentine for a friend in his class named Kitten. He's not sure if Kitten likes him. Splat finds out Spike likes Kitten and he made her a special Valentine too. Embarrassed, Splat throws his Valentine away, but Kitten finds it. She gives Splat a special Valentine Card. A fun story kids will love!

Valentine's Day Read-Aloud Picture Books

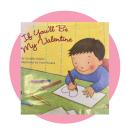


Valentine's Day Books



Katie Woo: No Valentines For Katie by Fran Manushkin

Katie's teacher has her students write their name on a paper and put it in a box. Then they draw out a name and make a valentine for that friend. When they share their Valentines Katie doesn't get one. Then she remembers she forgot to put her name in the box. Her teacher comes up with a solution that makes everyone happy.



If You'll Be My Valentine by Cynthia Rylant

A sweet story that will give kids ideas of how they can be a Valentine and show love and kindness for their pets, parents, grandparents, siblings and more.



The Biggest Valentine by Steven Kroll

Clayton and Desmond (mice) discover they can make the biggest and best Valentine if they put their differences aside and work together. You can read about more of Clayton and Desmond's adventures in *The Biggest Pumpkins Ever* and *The Biggest Christmas Tree Ever*.



Valentine's Day by Anne Rockwell

The children in Mrs. Madoff's class prepare Valentine cards that they mail to their friend Michiko who now lives in Japan.

Valentine's Day Read-Aloud Picture Books



St Patrick's Day Books



How To Catch a Leprechaun by Adam Wallace

This is another fun book in the series of books written by Adam Wallace. A very engaging story written in rhyme with clever ideas of how to try and trap a leprechaun. Leprechauns are smart and clever though and leave a trail of glitter, pranks and laugh aloud scenes. There are lots of great books in this series!



The Night Before St Patrick's Day by Natasha Wing

A delightful, rhyming story about how Tim and Maureen and their parents prepare for St Patrick's Day and celebrate it. They even catch a Leprechaun in their trap, but he outsmarts them and gets away!



The Luckiest Leprechaun by Justine Korman

Mackenzie O' Shamrock makes shoes for fairies and keeps an eye on his gold. He isn't happy when Lucky, the dog, adopts him. He tries to get rid of him. Eventually, they become good friends and Lucky, helps protect Mac's gold and his privacy. A fun story about friendship with bright, colorful illustrations.



Spring, Easter, Bunny Books



The Story Of The Easter Bunny By Katharine Teagan

A sweet story about how a little white bunny became the Easter Bunny. A white rabbit lived with a little old man and a little old woman. Every year they wove sticks into baskets, decorated eggs and made chocolate eggs. The rabbit helped deliver the treats to the children. When the couple was too old to continue, the rabbit and his friends kept the tradition alive.



The Easter Egg by Jan Brett

Hoppi wants to win the contest for the best decorated Easter Egg. When he is out gathering ideas and supplies to decorate his egg he finds a robin's egg on the ground. Mother Robin can't keep it warm and take care of the other two in the nest. Hopi helps Mother Robin and doesn't have time to decorate an egg. The Easter Bunny recognizes Hopi for his good deed!



Bunny Bus by Ammi-Joan Paquette

Follow along as the Bunny Bus picks up different animals until the bus is ready to burst. When it breaks down it takes everyone's help to get it on the road for the Easter Parade. Cute illustrations and text with a good rhythm and make this a fun read!



Bunny's Big Surprise by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes

Bunny finds a big egg in the wetlands near his home. He checks with Goose, Heron and Osprey to see if it's their egg. It's not theirs so he takes it home and paints it for Easter. He is surprised to see what comes out of the egg when it hatches-an Easter Alligator. Bunny helps the baby gator find its mother.

Spring, Easter, Bunny Read-Aloud Picture Books



Spring, Easter, Bunny Books



The Runaway Egg by Katy Hudson

Mama Hen asks Chick to watch the egg that his baby brother will soon hatch out of. Chick's not sure why he needs to watch this egg. All it does is sit there. Soon two little cracks then legs appear and off runs the egg. Chick tries to catch the egg as it runs through the different animal pens. After a chase he gets the egg back to the nest before Mama Hen returns.



So Many Bunnies by Rick Walton

"Old Mother Rabbit lived in a shoe. She had twenty-six children and knew what to do." Each of her children's names start with a different letter of the alphabet. They all go to sleep in a variety of places and finally Mother Rabbit has a little peace. The illustrations in this book could not be cuter and the rhyming text is very pleasing for young children to listen to.



The Bunnies Trip by Lezlie Evans

A family of eight bunnies go to great lengths to prepare for a trip. At last they begin their journey to see their favorite bunny kin. When they arrive it's time to have fun! You will also want to read *The Bunnies Picnic* by the same author.



A Home for A Rabbit by Margaret Wise Brown

It's Spring and a bunny is looking for a home of his own. He visits a variety of animals and asks them where their home is. He keeps looking until he meets another bunny. His new bunny friend invites him to share her burrow. This book, written in 1956, is a classic and one my grandchildren have asked for over and over.

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Spring, Easter, Bunny Read-Aloud Picture Books



Spring, Easter, Bunny Books



Too Many Carrots by Katy Hudson

Rabbit loves carrots! He loves them so much they fill up his house and he doesn't have room to sleep. His animal friends take turns inviting him to stay at their house. When he accepts their offers and brings all his carrots and tries to fit them in their houses, disaster happens. Rabbit realizes that it's best to share his carrots, not just collect and store carrots.



Grab That Rabbit by Polly Faber

Mrs Sprat is not happy that a rabbit has eaten all her carrots. When Mrs Sprat tries to catch him a hawk grabs him first. He's too heavy for the hawk who drops him right by Mrs Sprat. She decides to have rabbit stew for dinner. As she carries the rabbit into the house she feels how soft and fluffy he is. She decides she doesn't want rabbit stew after all and they both live very happily together.



Muncha, Muncha by Candace Fleming

Mr McGreely has worked hard planting and caring for his garden. He can't wait to harvest and eat his carrots, lettuce, peas and tomatoes. Three hungry bunnies are also eager to eat the veggie in his garden. This humorous story has lots of repeating phrases that kids love to join in saying-especially "Muncha, Muncha, Muncha"!



My Garden by Kevin Henkes

A little girl helps in her mother's garden, but in her imagination she creates a garden full of magic. In her garden she would plant jelly beans that would grow a jelly bean bush and sea shells that would grow more seashells. All the rabbits would be chocolate. There would be no weeds and the flowers would never die. This book is a good one to start a discussion with the question: What would you plant in your magic garden?

Spring, Easter, Bunny Read-Aloud Picture Books



Fourth Of July



I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag by Pat Mora

A charming true story about the author's aunt who was born in Mexico and as a young girl immigrated to the United States. When she was in her seventies she became a citizen of the United States. Libby and her aunt learn the Pledge of Allegiance together as her aunt prepares to become a citizen.



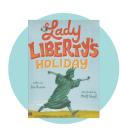
The Flag We Love by Pamela Munoz Ryan

The beautiful illustrations and simple verse in this book will hold the attention of young children. If you are reading to older children there is an additional text box on some pages with more interesting stories or details about our countries flag.



My Fourth Of July by Jerri Spinelli

A young boy shares his excitement and enthusiasm for his family's tradition of celebrating the 4th in the park with the people in their town. They enjoy a picnic, parade, games, fireworks



Lady Liberty's Holiday by Jen Arena

The Statue of Liberty has been welcoming people to America for over a hundred years. She is ready for a vacation! Her friend, Moe the pigeon, encourages her to go. Lady Liberty takes off to see the rest of America. She visits beautiful and interesting landmarks and places across the whole country and returns to NYC to celebrate the Fourth of July. This fun book gives Lady Liberty a personality and highlights sights to see in America. Interesting facts are shared at the end.

Fourth of July Read-Aloud Picture Books





The Little Ghost Who Lost Her Boo by Elaine Bickell

A little ghost goes out to give someone a scare and discovers she has lost her "boo". She goes out searching for it with no luck. At the end the reader and listeners get to help her find her "boo"! A delightful, fun, interactive story!



Room on The Broom by Julia Donaldson

This has been a favorite Halloween book at our house for a lot of years. How many friends can the witch fit on her broom and can they help save her from a hungry dragon?



How To Scare A Ghost by Jean Reagan

All of the books in this series are delightful! You learn how to find a ghost, scare a ghost and what to play with your ghost. At the end the kids go trick-or-treating with the ghost.



Snowmen At Halloween by Carolyn Buehner

When a surprise snow storm brings snow just before Halloween the snowmen get to enjoy all the traditions of the spooky season. When the sun comes out they melt away leaving only their costumes as a reminder they celebrated Halloween.





Gustavo The Shy Ghost by Flavia Z. Drago

Gustavo is good at doing lots of things, but he's shy and has a hard time making friends with the other monsters. Gustavo loves to play his violin and finds a way to use this talent to help him meet others and make friends.



Skeleton For Dinner by Margery Cutler

Big Witch and Little Witch make a big pot of stew and want to invite their friends for dinner. Skeleton misreads the invitation and thinks the witches want to eat him, Ghost and Ghoul for dinner. A crow helps clear up the confusion and they all enjoy dinner together.



Brunhilda's Backwards Day by Shawna J. C. Tenney

Brunhilda the witch loves making trouble. One day she wakes up on the right side of the bed instead of the wrong side and everything is backwards. Instead of causing mischief her spells bring joy and happiness. This clever story is full of bright, bold illustrations that make the story even better.



The Monsters' Monster by Patrick McDonnell

Once upon a time three bad, little monsters create a big monster who they think will be the biggest, baddest monster ever. The new monster doesn't turn out like they planned. He's polite and nice. They don't know what to do at first, but they soon learn to smile and change their habits.





Creepy Carrots! by Aaron Reynolds

Jasper Rabbit loves carrots, especially the carrots from Crackenhopper Field. Jasper stops there often and eats as many as he can. Then his imagination gets the better of him. He thinks the creepy carrots are following him home. This isn't a Halloween book, but the orange, black and gray illustrations along with the "creepiness" theme make this humorous book a great read-aloud during the month of October.



The Halloween Tree by Susan Montanari

A young sapling doesn't want to be a Christmas Tree like the trees surrounding him. Eventually he grows into a gnarly old tree. The children in the neighborhood love the old tree. He becomes their fort, spaceship and even a dragon as they play. Then the children decide to decorate the tree for Halloween and a new tradition is born.



Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman

A witch grew a huge pumpkin! It was so big she couldn't get it off the vine to make a pumpkin pie. Her friends, the ghost, vampire and mummy, try to help, but they don't succeed. Then a little bat comes along with an idea of how they can all work together to pick the pumpkin. In the end they are all rewarded with homemade pumpkin pie!



The Little Ghost Who Was A Quilt by Riel Nason

Ghosts are supposed to be sheets that are light as air and can float through the air. Little ghost, who is a quilt, feels different. His family and friends are sheets. He feels sad and left out, but all of that changes on Halloween. Little ghost is able to keep a little girl warm and it feels good. His family and friends admire his courage and little ghost is so happy he floats without even trying.





It's Halloween Little Monster by Helen Ketteman

This is one of the cutest monster books you will find. I love the illustrations! Little monster is going trick-or-treating with his father for the very first time. They see all kinds of creatures and hear some scary noises too, but his papa is near so there is nothing to fear. Little monster laughs when papa is startled and screams!



The Little Kitten by Nicola Killen

When Ollie and her cat, Pumpkin, were out playing in the fall leaves they found a shivering little kitten. Ollie gets lost in the woods when she tries to find where the kitten's home is. Pumpkin rescues her and helps her find her way home. They are both surprised when they discover who the little kitten belongs to. A charming, delightful story!



Stumpkin by Lucy Ruth Cummins

This book will change how you feel about pumpkins that don't have a stem. Stumpkin wants to be a jack-o-lantern in someone's home. The other pumpkins at the shop get chosen one by one and leave the stand. Stumpkin is almost perfect! Why doesn't anyone take him home? Then he realizes he has a home and that makes him very happy!



Grimelda, the Very Messy Witch by Diana Murray

When Grimelda wants to make Pickle Pie she can't find the main ingredient. She can't find her spell book either so she has to clean her house. The problem is her house just doesn't feel right after she cleans and organizes. A fun rhyming tale.



Fall Books



Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper

Cat, Squirrel and Duck live together in a cabin in the woods. They enjoy making pumpkin soup together the same way every day. One day Duck suggests a different plan and there is a squabble. The three friends have to learn what's really important and how to solve their differences. There is a recipe for Pumpkin Soup at the end.



Sneeze, Big Bear, Sneeze by Maureen Wright

Big bear thinks his sneezes are causing the leaves and apples to fall off trees and the geese to fly away. The autumn breeze tries to show him otherwise.



The Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming

Squirrel is distressed when the leaves change colors and start to fall off his tree. He wants to know who the leaf thief is. The other animals try to teach him about the fall wind and trees that lose their leaves. More details are given at the end about changes that happen in autumn.



Lawrence In The Fall by Matthew Farina

Lawrence's teacher announces to her class that they are to bring something they collect for show and tell. Lawrence doesn't know what to bring. His father suggests they take a walk in the woods and look for ideas. Lawrence discovers a variety of leaves in beautiful fall colors that he collects and shares with his class.

Fall Read-Aloud Picture Books



Thanksgiving Books



The Night Before Thanksgiving by Natasha Wing

A fun story of how a family prepares for Thanksgiving by baking, welcoming relatives, putting on a skit, playing games then ultimately eating the golden turkey!



Thanksgiving Rules by Laurie Friedman

This humorous story shares Percy's 10 rules to help you get the most out your holiday! A few of his rules are: wearing the clothes your mom wants you to, help your dad, be polite when family and friends arrive and more. A fun book filled with rules we can all relate to.



Thank You, Sarah by Laurie Halse Anderson

This non fiction book about the woman who Saved thanksgiving may be best for older children, but you could still use it with younger children and tell it in your own words. I had no idea how many years and how much effort it took to make Thanksgiving a national holiday!



How To Catch a Turkey by Adam Wallace

This unique story is about a turkey who finds out he's supposed to be in the school play and thinks "No Way"! He breaks out of his pen and takes off. If you've read the other books in this series you know there will be a crazy chase and lots of laughs.

Thanksgiving Read-Aloud Picture Books



In August 2020 I started reading online to my grandchildren, who live hundreds of miles away. A few years and over a thousand books later we are still reading together on FaceTime.

I soon discovered there were other grandparents that wanted to readaloud to their grandchildren in person and online. They didn't know where to start or what books to read.

My website, readaloudgrandma.com, is a guide to help you read-aloud to children you love online or in person. You will find:

- · Tips for getting started
- More Favorite Books
- Holiday Books
- How to use books as conversation starters
- Activities to encourage reading

Thank you for joining me on this read-aloud adventure! Tammy Northrup



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