Unleash the Storybook

Diana Greenleaf

New England Santa Society

"... the best reason to tell stories is that is brings joy to the teller and listener alike."

Judy Freeman, School Library Journal, 6/16/2016

Reasons for telling stories

- You want to, you need a filler, or you were told it needs to be part of your appearance
- Story time is a collaboration between you and the listener it brings your spirits and energies together
- What happens when children listen to read alouds
 - Develop listening skills and comprehension
 - Learn to speculate on what may happen in the story by looking at clues
 - Judge why characters act the way they do
- Everyone brings something different to a story
 - Older children may have been taught in school to make connections to stories

Selecting a Book

- Read, read, and read some more to find good choices
 - o Go to the Children's Room at your local library
 - Hang out at your local book store during the holidays
 - Read the first few pages on Amazon.com or BN.com
 - Get recommendations from peers
- Choose something that appeals to you, reflects your personality, speaks to your inner self
- Find something with wide audience appeal

Selecting a Book -- continued

- Interaction with the text or audience participation is a plus
- Bold pictures and for some large text are important
- Do not choose a religious book unless it has been requested
- Find multiple books, don't rely on just one

Preparation

- Learn the story
 - Read through it AT LEAST three times
 - Where might there be confusion or words listeners don't understand? How and when will you address this?
 - Read it out loud AT LEAST three times the more the better
 - There are always words and phrases that will trip you up
 - As much as you hope the author has text that flows well, it doesn't always it is okay to paraphrase or leave words out
 - Try to tell it without the book (will help if the text is tiny and you can't easily read it)
 - If all else fails you can put the words on the back of the cover and read from there.

Preparation - continued

- Examine the illustrations they are an important part of the book when well done they provide a rewarding visual experience and help tell the story
- Make sure to look at the illustrations both on the dust jacket, endpapers, title page and throughout the story before you share it
- Talking about the pictures increases listener understanding
- The same can be done with the title ask what the book might be about, or if the title reminds them of some other book
- Your job is NOT to tell them what they see let them tell you

Sharing the Story

- Do begin with a group activity like a quick song a chorus of "Jingle Bells" would be great
- Think of the dust jacket as a Coming Attractions poster
 - Before you even open the book have the children look at the illustration on the front
 - Have them make predictions about what might happen in the story based on the front picture or the title
- If there were questions you wanted to ask, or items you wanted to point out, don't forget to do it
- When they are focused, begin your reading

Sharing the Story - continued

Use your voice

- Your voice is a tool
- Try using different voices for different characters
- Don't keep raising your voice to get their attention -- sometimes lowering your voice to a whisper will make them focus on you so they can hear

Use your body

- Don't try to act out the story
- Do make simple movements -- if the character stomps in the story, you can stomp invite everyone to stomp with you

Use humor

• If something happens like a child grabbing the book from you, make it into something funny

Sharing the Story - continued

- Remember to use your eyes
 - Make eye contact with your listeners once in awhile this helps them feel like they are a part of the story
 - Looking at the audience helps you know how you are doing
- Remember to use your ears listen to the chatter
 - Is the chatter about something happening in the book? Should you comment on it? Should you
 stop reading and discuss it or keep going?
 - Is the chatter parents in the background who can be hard to ignore?
 - Is the chatter everyone because they have lost interest in the story?

Sharing the Story - continued

- If you feel you have lost everyone make a quick assessment: is it momentary and you can get them back, or is it a lost cause?
- If you think you can get them back, find something in the story for them to do --
- If it seems impossible to finish, that is okay -- the excitement of the day sometimes wins out! Be flexible.

Dos, Don'ts and What Ifs?

- Do have plenty of books to choose from
 - Different lengths, writing styles, interest levels and topics
- Don't have a rigid plan
- What if you have one child who dominates and interrupts?
 - To deflect a child like this, say something like, "Sam you have shared a lot of wonderful ideas, let's let Susie tell us what she thinks."

Dos, Don'ts and What Ifs? - continued

- What if too many children are talking at once?
 - You don't want to yell at them to be quiet
 - Look for something in the story they can say together with you -- does an animal make a noise? Is there a phrase or sound they can all say
 - Try to redirect them by saying, "Let's count to three and turn the page to see what happens next.
 One, two three..."
 - Or try to redirect them by saying in a quiet voice, "When I count to three we are all going to say, "Ho, Ho, Ho" or "Sssshhhh"
 - Or try to redirect them by saying in a quiet voice, "If you can hear me say, "Ho." A few will say it, then say again, "If you can hear me say, "Ho, Ho." More of them should respond. Try one more time, "If you can hear me say, "Ho, Ho, Ho." You should have them back by now.

Ways to Enhance a Story

- Repetitive phrases tell listeners they are going to help tell the story, there is a phrase that will come up many times.
 - Give them some kind of a signal so they will know it is time to say the phrase -- raise your finger,
 say "OK," jingle a bell....
- Silly sounds you may have a book with great onomatopoeia and the listeners can repeat the sounds with you
- Props
 - Some books repeat things over and over Think "Twelve Days of Christmas"
 - You can create a prop for each of the repeated things
 - Hand a prop to each listener and explain when they are going to use their prop

Ways to Enhance a Book - continued

Making props

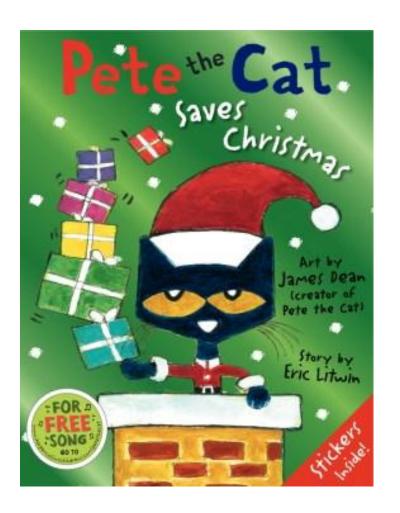
- Photocopy pictures in the book
- Trace pictures
- Draw them freehand
- Glue them onto construction paper, get them laminated, cover with contact paper, purchase lamination sheets
- Attach them to a straw, wooden skewer or a craft stick
- Write on the back what animal, phrase, character they are so they don't have to keep asking or looking at the front of their prop

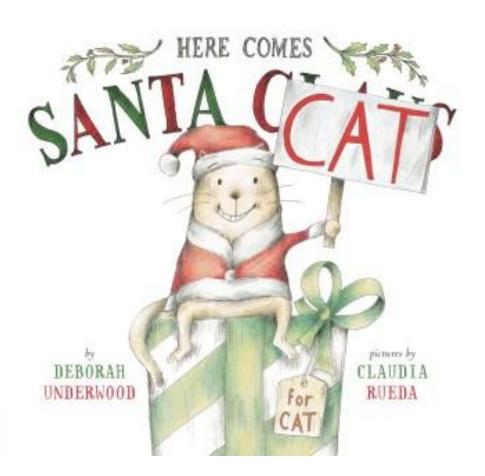
Ways to Enhance a Book - continued

Sing -- there are books that are a song that everyone knows. Listeners can sing along as you share the illustrations

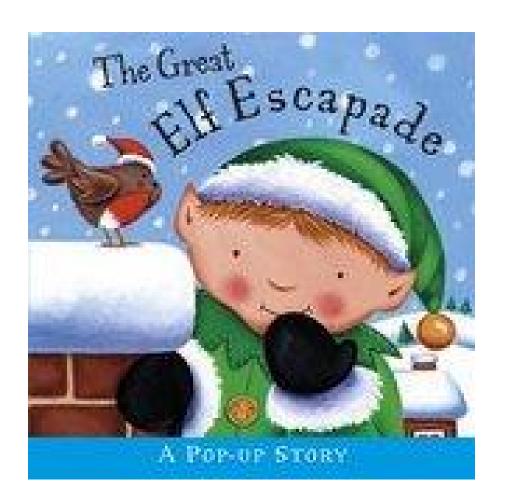
Check Publisher websites - Oftentimes they will offer activities and ideas to go along with a book.

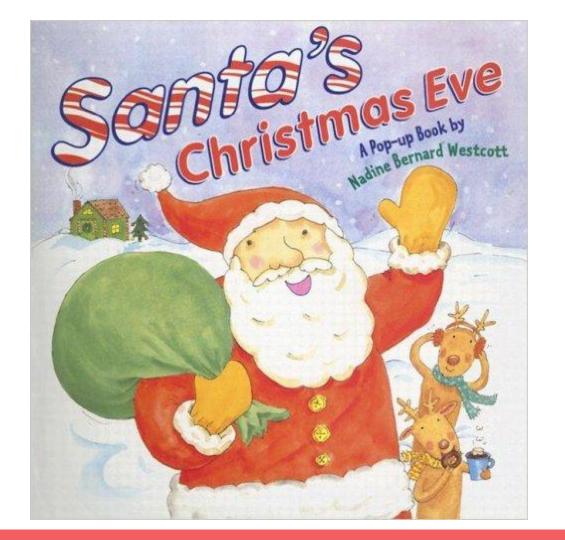
Check your titles on YouTube - often you can see someone else tell the story and get ideas

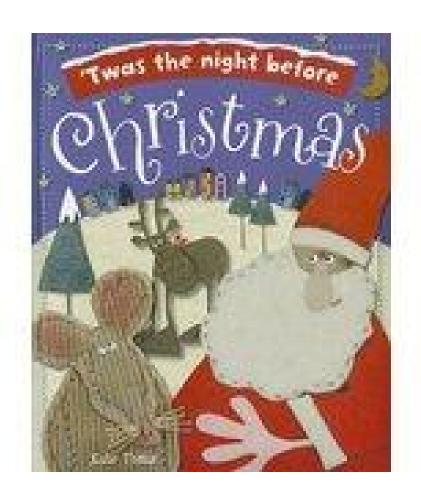


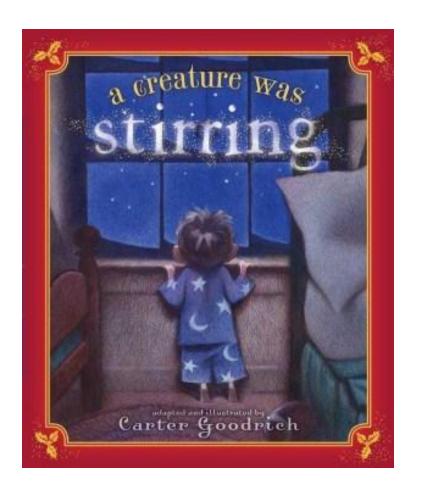


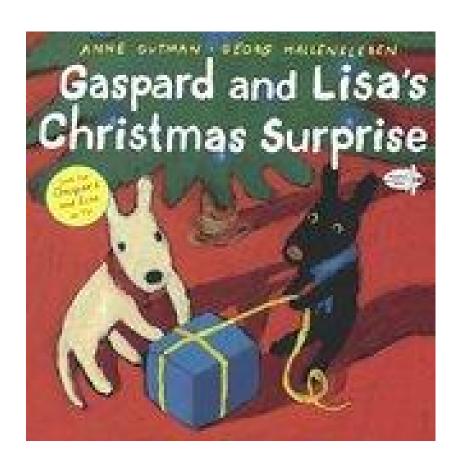


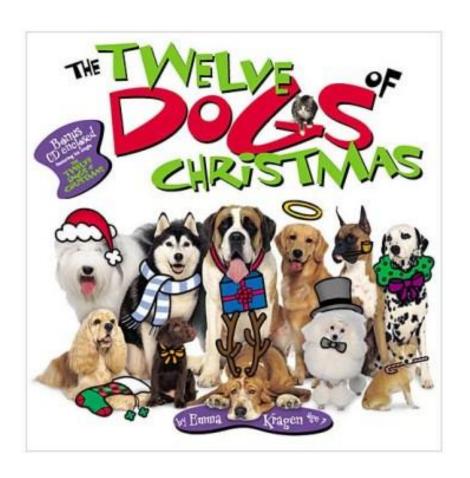


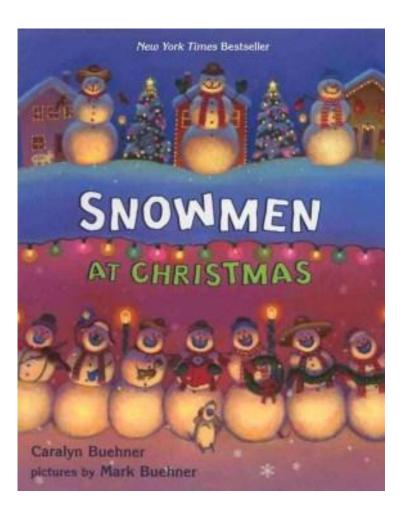


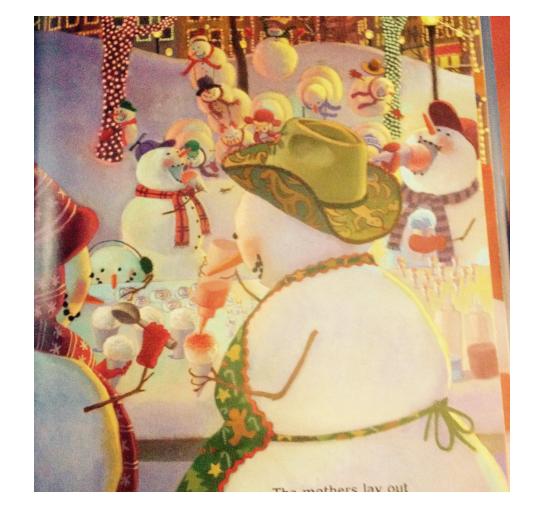


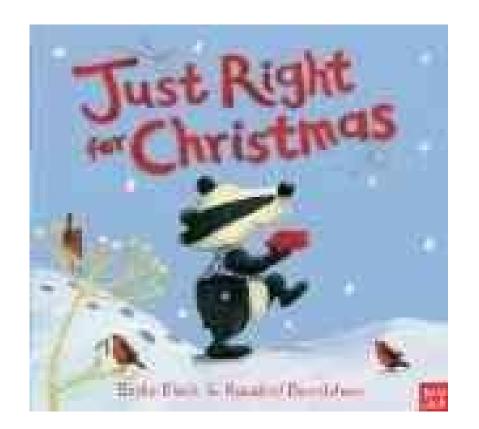


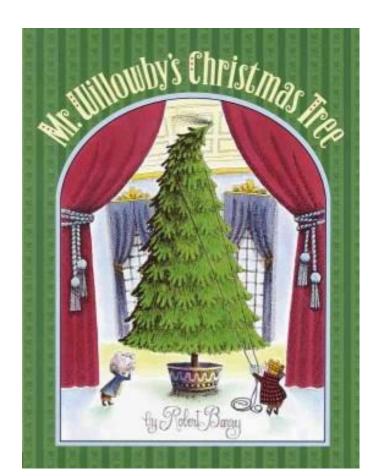


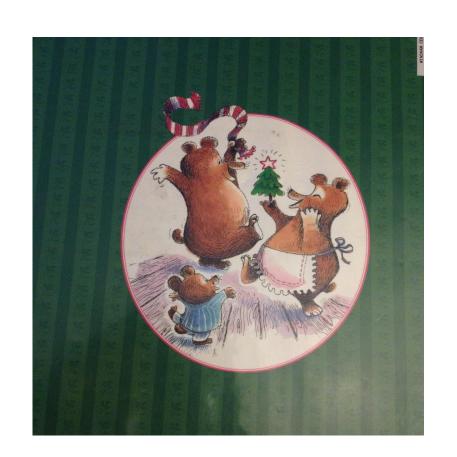


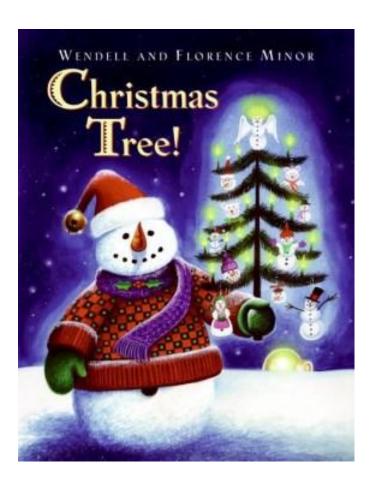


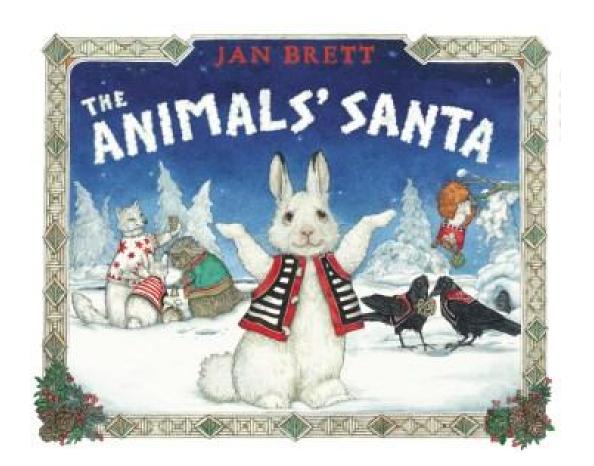




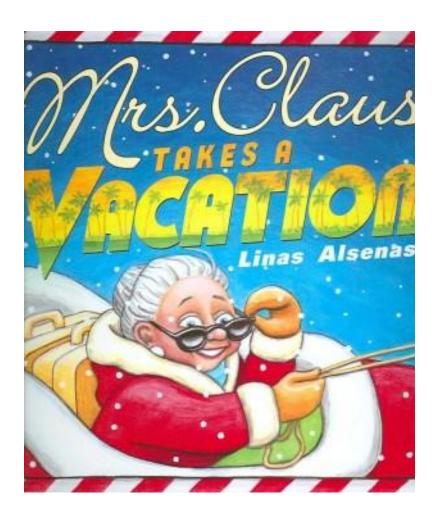


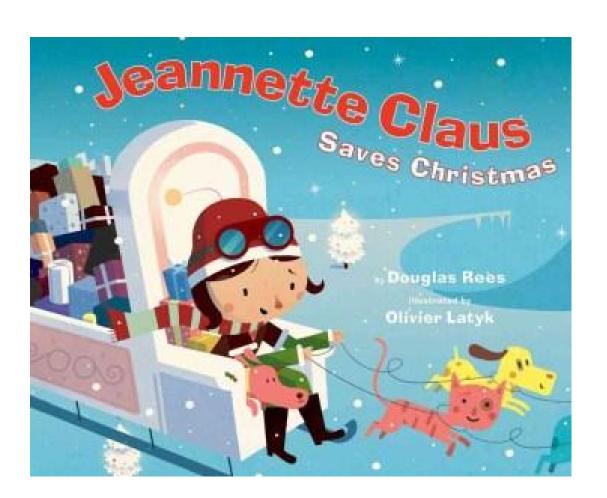


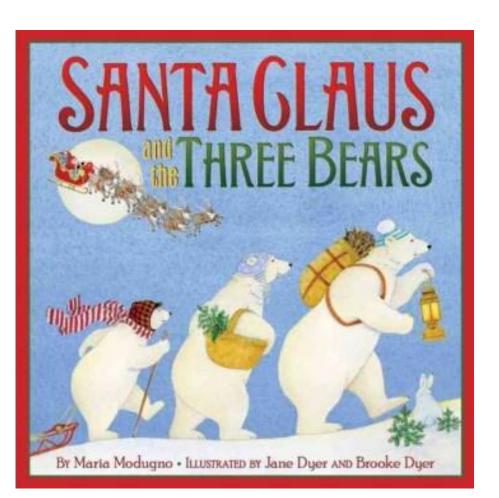


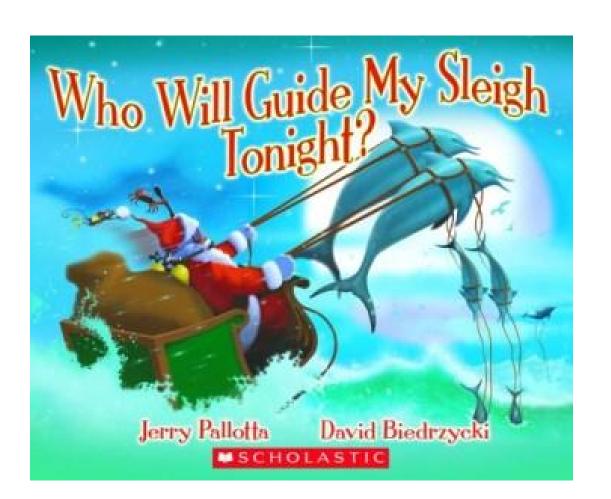


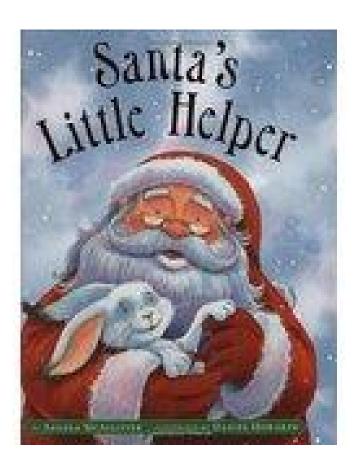


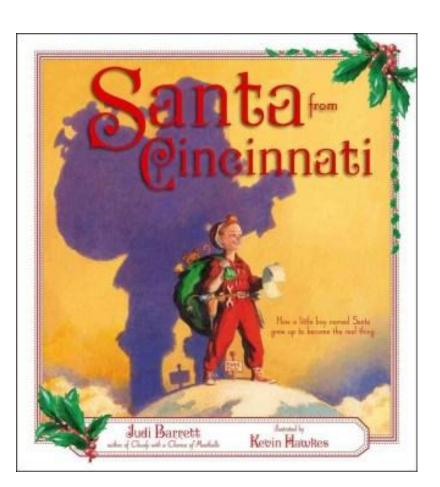




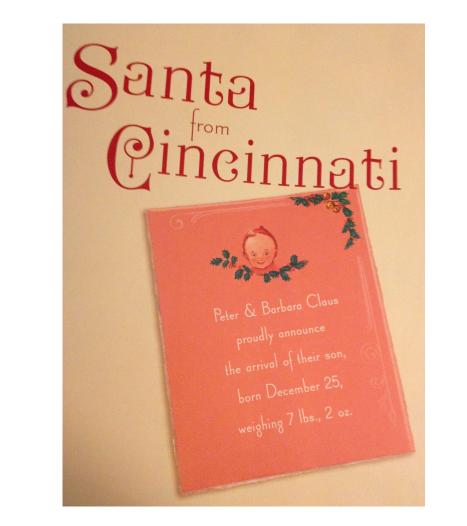


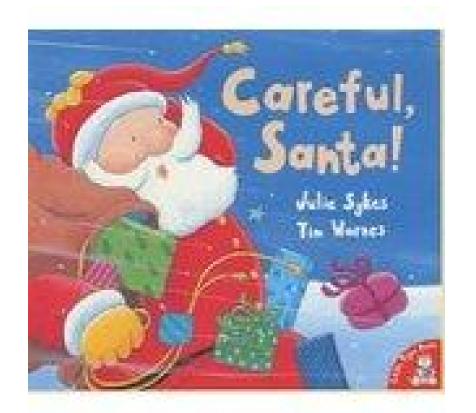


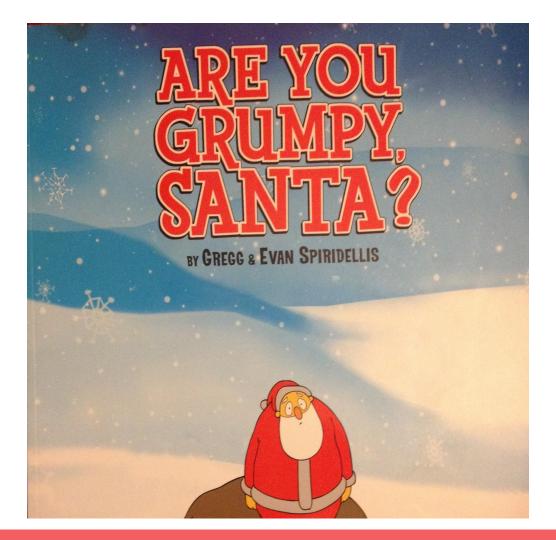


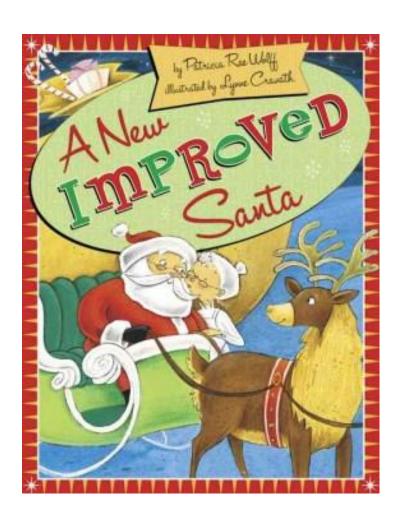


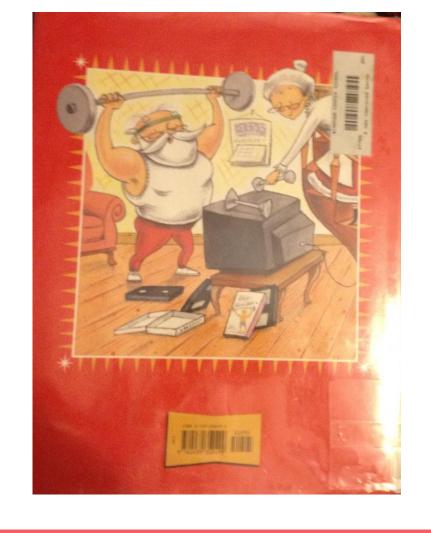


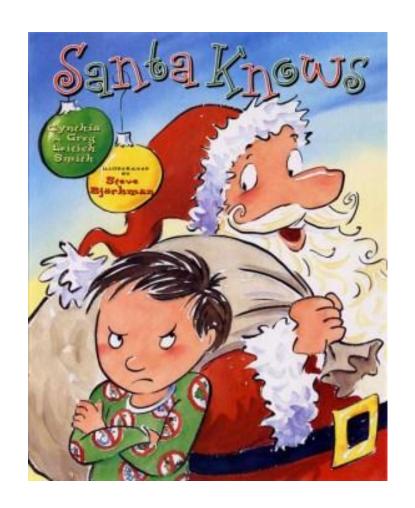


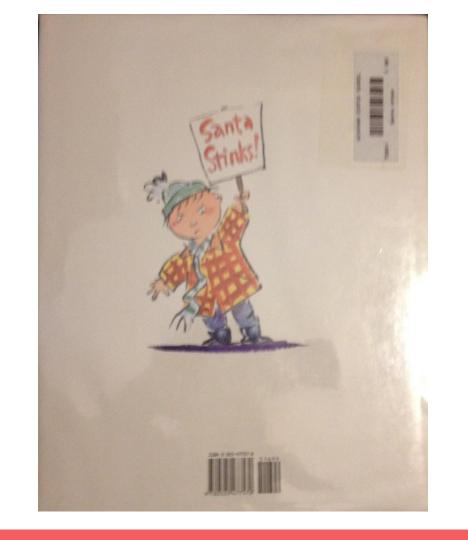


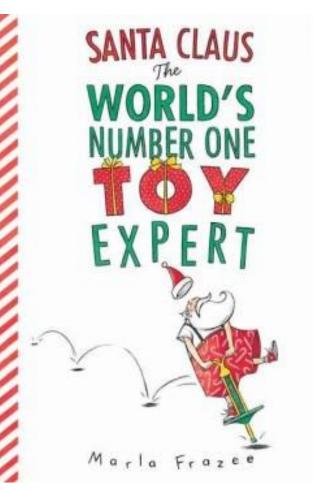


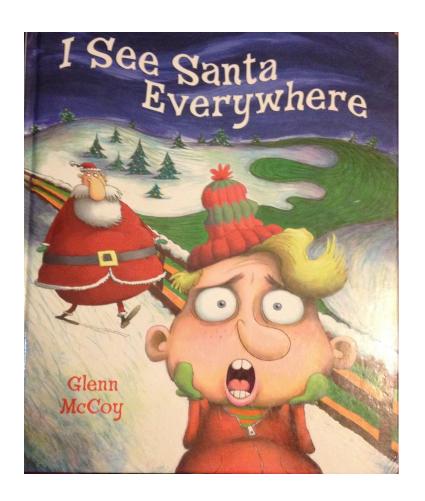










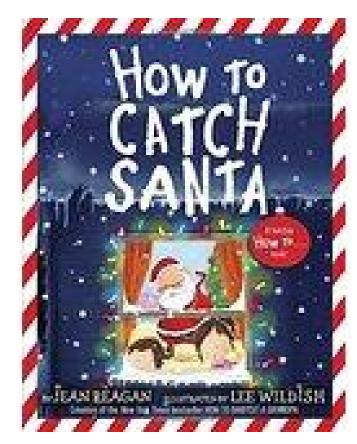


I See Santa Everywhere

Glenn McCoy

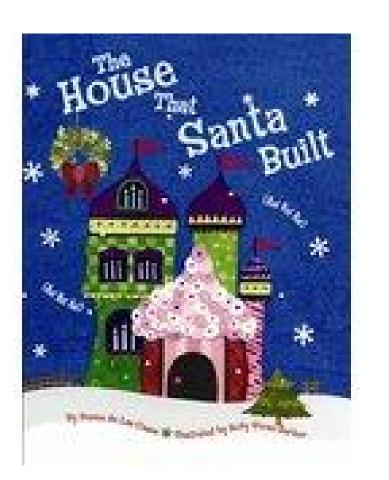


Hagerion Books for Children - Hen York In turion or traini form Green



nks, leggyage Dear Santa, Picture of Yoy like shoes pool Ranger hat or Sea a Bring me presents.
I would like your
sleigh please 9/50 bior TOM P.S. I'm trying to Catch you!

To Santa,
You are the
Hest! Thank
of my TO SANTA THANK YOU P.S. I hope to catch you next year. Thank >
For my bed
3 present



A Stanimation: Picture Book RUFUS BUTLER SEDER 45 New York Steam Securiting author

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTABLES

PRESS

HERE

Herre Tillet

Bibliography

Freeman, Judy. "Story Is King: How to Be a Great Storyteller." *School Library Journal* June 2016: 40-43. Print.

Lambert, Megan Dowd. Reading Picture Books With Children: How to Shake up Storytime and Get Kids Talking About What They See. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2015.

Roach, Julie. "What Makes a Good Storytime?" *Horn Book Magazine* May-June 2016: 66-70. Print.