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There's nothing like reading good books over the holidays

One of my fondest Christmas memories is of the family lounging about, late in the day, curled up in new robes and slippers and each reading their new Christmas book. It was a relaxing antidote to all the hoopla and hype that went before.

If you share the same memory or would like to start one, we have put together some gift suggestions that may spur some shopping successes.

The day the world came to town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim DeFede. Short and sweet, this is a collection of anecdotes from people who were involved in the 'Great Landing' when the U.S. closed its airspace and several thousand people were unexpectedly stranded in the (very) small town of Gander.

Letters from the country omnibus by Marsha Boulton is a feel-good collection available in inexpensive paperback format. Boulton is a journalist who retired to the country to raise sheep, as well as stray dogs, horses and chickens, and whatever else turned up on her doorstep. The stories are like listening to a funny neighbour.

Young fans of wacky fiction would undoubtedly appreciate the popular Captain Underpants books, or Richard Scrimger's Noses Are Red.

Very young children would enjoy Marie-Louise Gay's Stella, fairy of the forest. If you take a mouse to the movies by Laura Numeroff, or any of the wonderful MacDuff books by Rosemary Wells would also appeal to little ones. The newest MacDuff (a naughty West Highland White terrier) is MacDuff Saves The Day.

Why not build a gift basket around a book theme? Include a bookmark or two, a teacup or mug, some tea, coffee or hot chocolate, a tasty treat, some bubble bath and a 'do not disturb sign' along with a

Cover to
cover



couple of new paperbacks to appeal to the grateful recipient (from science fiction to romance to mysteries, new biographies or literary travel).

Gift baskets for kids ages 9 to 11 years, could contain an adventure series of books from the newer books by Gordon Korman (the Everest and the Island books) or Iain Lawrence's Swashbuckling Trilogy The Wreckers, The Smugglers, and The Buccaneers along with a back pack, trail mix, band-aids, socks, and a compass.

For those who would prefer to cosy up to the TV, why not pop some videos into their Christmas stocking? There are many great choices for everyone including costume dramas like The Forsyte Saga, thrillers like Jaws, the World War Two series Band of Brothers, classic suspense from Alfred Hitchcock in Rear Window, an animation treasure such as Lilo and Stitch, the superb and award winning Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner, ground breaking rock musicals like A Hard Day's Night, Oscar winners like Apocalypse Now, the anniversary edition or for sports fans, videos like Figure Skating The Competition/ The Exhibition (2002 Winter Olympics).

If you need any Christmas shopping ideas, stop by the library. We have a host of holiday-themed books, magazines, CDs, and videos to spark your interest and welcome you to this wonderful time of year.

Cover to cover is prepared by staff at the Milton Public Library.

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