

Holland Reads

December 2024
Issue

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Media Centers

“The greatest
gift is a
passion for
reading.”

Elizabeth
Hardwick



American
literary critic

Start a New Holiday Tradition: Jolabokafloð!

It may be difficult to say, but the Icelandic tradition **Jolabokafloð**, literally meaning “Christmas book flood” is an easy tradition to start. On Christmas Eve, Icelanders give each other books and spend the rest of the evening reading and drinking hot chocolate. Throw in a warm fire and you’ve got a perfect evening to relax and spend time with the people you love.



Need book suggestions? Check out Brightly’s [holiday gift guide](#). Click an age group at the top of the page. Then click the holiday guide in the options that drop down.

Battle of the Books to Begin Soon...

7th and 8th graders are invited to participate in this year’s Battle of the Books competition that will be held at Readington Middle School on April 10th, 4:30-7:45. Students form teams of 3-5 students. Together they read 15 books from a list compiled by the New Jersey Association of School Librarians. That sentence usually makes students nervous, however every student doesn’t have to read 15 books. They cover the list as a team.

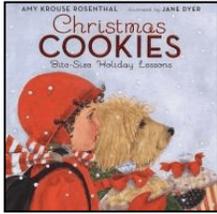
The competition is an amazing event with students from all over Hunterdon County coming together to share their love of reading and their competitive spirit. It’s a great alternative way to show school pride. Contact Mrs. Detrick at cdetr@hollandschool.org for more information.

This year’s list includes:

- **Hoops** Walter Dean Myers
- **Brown Girl Dreaming** J. Woodson
- **Redwall** Brian Jacques
- **Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie** Jordan Sonnenblick
- **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** Scott Adams
- **Long Walk to Water** L. S. Park
- **Things Not Seen** A. Clements
- **Holes** Louis Sachar
- **The Westing Game** Ellen Raskin
- **Devil’s Arithmetic** Jane Yolen
- **I Am Princess X** Cherie Priest
- **Airman** Eoin Colfer
- **Witness** Karen Hesse
- **First Time for Everything** Dan Santat
- **Counting by Sevens** Holly Goldberg Sloan

Information regarding a Battle of the Books competition for 5th and 6th graders run by Del Val students and librarian Tracy Miceli will be coming soon!

Catch the Holiday Spirit



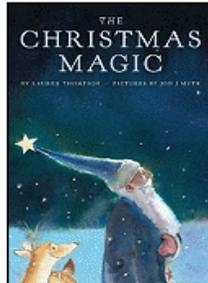
Christmas Cookies: Bite-Size Holiday Lessons by Amy Rosenthal

Teaches lessons about the holiday season through text and illustrations about baking cookies.

The Christmas Magic

By Lauren Thompson

Santa prepares his reindeer and sleigh, cleans his boots and suit, and chooses a toy for every child in the world as he awaits the magic that happens on Christmas Eve.



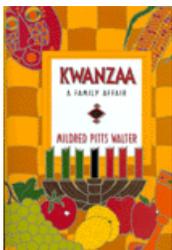
Hanukkah Haiku

By Harriet Ziefert

Colorful illustrations and rhyming text introduce children to the celebration of Hanukkah and the lighting of eight candles.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

A hilarious must-read. A classic that will make parents appreciate that their children aren't the Herdmans.



Kwanzaa

Introduces the origins and symbols of the holiday that focuses on African-American history, culture and experiences.

WEBSITES TO EXPLORE **Some fun for the holiday season**

Norad Tracks Santa Claus

<http://www.noradsanta.org/>

Check here on the big night to see where Santa is on his journey.

Christmas Around the World

<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/> Learn about Christmas traditions from all over the world .

Christmas Crafts for Kids

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/>

What is Hanukkah?

https://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article_cdo/aid/102911/jewish/What-Is-Hanukkah.htm

From Chabad.org

Celebrating Kwanzaa

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/kwanzaa>

How to Celebrate Winter Solstice With Kids

<https://tinkergarten.com/blog/how-to-celebrate-winter-solstice-with-kids>
Crafts, decorations and other activities.

10 Little Snowmen

<https://www.starfall.com/h/holiday/snowman/?sn=main>

Great site for preschoolers for early reading, following directions and simple computer movements.

This Month in History

- 12/1/1955** Rosa Parks arrested for failing to give up her seat in Montgomery, Alabama
- 12/9/1965** Charlie Brown Christmas premiere
- 12/16/1773** Boston Tea Party occurred
- 12/17/1903** 1st powered flight at Kitty Hawk
- 12/21/1988** PanAm 103 explodes over Scotland
- 12/25/1776** Washington crosses Delaware for surprise attack at Trenton, NJ
- 12/27/1831** Darwin sets sail on HMS Beagle
- 12/29-30/1916** Rasputin poisoned, shot, drowned

December Birthdays

- 12/2/1859 – George Seurat – French painter
- 12/5/1901 – Walt Disney
- 12/8/1765 – Eli Whitney – inventor of cotton gin
- 12/10/1851– Melvil Dewey — Amer. Librarian
- 12/21/1879 – Joseph Stalin – Soviet dictator
- 12/25/1899 – Humphrey Bogart – Movie actor
- 12/27/1822 – Louis Pasteur – French bacteriologist
- 12/28/1856 – Woodrow Wilson – 28th US President
- 12/31/1880 – George C. Marshall – Sec of State under Truman created Marshall Plan.