

THANKSGIVING BOOK LIST

Redeemed Reader

***Thanksgiving Graces* by Mark Kimball Moulton.**

If you prefer warm and fuzzy instead of a history lesson, and/or you're looking for something for toddlers or preschoolers, this might be the ticket. It's pretty light on theology, but unlike other similarly simple books, it does mention Jesus and thankfulness to God. Ages 2-6.

***Sarah Gives Thanks: How Thanksgiving Became a National Holiday* by Mike Allegra, ill. by David Gardner.**

Gentle watercolor illustrations show Sarah and her children growing older until the final page, where she holds a grandchild surrounded by grown sons and daughters, each face an echo of her prayer of thanks from the first page. Sarah's letter writing campaign spurred President Lincoln on to set Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Ages 4-8.

***Thanksgiving: A Harvest Celebration* by Julie Stiegemeier.**

Crisp, descriptive writing, illustrations that will teach as well as endear, and a focus on God at the center of the story sets this Thanksgiving book apart. Ages 4-8.

***Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember* by Barbara Rainey.**

Good storytelling—and enough of it—make this a book to linger over in the weeks leading to Thanksgiving. Rainey helps families connect the dots from the first settlers in America to our Thanksgiving rituals today. Ages 8 and up.

***An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving* by Louisa May Alcott.**

A title to cozy up with and enjoy for the warm fuzzies. Ages 8 and up.

***Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving* by Eric Metaxas.**

More spiritual than robust historical story, this is still a good look at a different side of Squanto than usually found in children's books. Ages 4-8.

***The Thanksgiving Story* by Alice Dalgliesh.**

The Thanksgiving story told in simple language with endearing illustrations. This one doesn't leave out God, but neither does He come across as especially personal or immanent. Look for it in your local library. Ages 2-8.

Give Thanks to the Lord by Karma Wilson, ill. by Amy June Bates.

Told in rhyme from the perspective of a young boy, the reader is constantly reminded that “It is good to give thanks to the Lord” Psalm 92 is woven throughout. Ages/interest level: 4-8.

... If You Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620 by Ann McGovern.

Another engaging look at the Pilgrims, which includes question and answer format: What kind of ship was the Mayflower? How did the Pilgrims feel when they saw land? What was the first building in Plymouth? Like Dalgliesh’s book, it’s not hostile to faith—nor especially warm to it. But it’s a book from which your kids can definitely benefit. Ages 5-up.

Giving Thanks: Poems, Prayers, and Praise Songs of Thanksgiving by Katherine Paterson, ill. by Pamela Dalton.

Pulling from faith traditions that include Muslims and others alongside traditional Christianity, this is still a beautiful book to peruse. Many of the authors are in agreement with Scripture, even if they don’t know it (or claim it). Age/interest level: 6-up.

The Adventurous Life of Myles Standish by Cheryl Harness.

Solid storytelling, historical context complete with timeline, and plenty of extra end material make this a worthy biography for middle grade kids. Highly recommended. Ages 8 and up.

The Great Turkey Walk by Kathleen Karr.

A humorous piece of historical fiction about a boy who walked turkeys to Denver from Missouri. Set in 1860, this is a Wild West-style romp and makes a great read aloud. Ages 12 and up.

Never Before in History: America’s Inspired Birth by Gary Amos and Richard Gardiner.

If you’re looking for a book that will help you put Thanksgiving into a religious and political context, look no further. This will give you an overview of America’s Christian heritage and show how religious ideas shaped our country which you can use throughout your child’s education. A perfect textbook for teenagers, too. Ages 15+.

This list is from our [Redeemed Reader’s Companion](#). In addition to more themed lists (many of them annotated like this one), there are essays and articles all about reading to and with children.