

Celebrate the Holidays with a Book

Aurora Ropp and Kris Wiley for The News Review

Reading holiday-themed books is a great way to get into the spirit of the season. This month, we recommend curling up on the couch with a blanket, hot chocolate and one of these books.

Picture Books

“Dasher Can’t Wait for Christmas” written and illustrated by Matt Tavares is a cute story to share this holiday season. Dasher is a juvenile reindeer who practices flying and asks frequently about the countdown to Christmas Day. After hearing Christmas music, she decides to do a small flight and enjoys the music and magic of town.

On her way back, Dasher is tired and gets lost in the snow. After Dasher rests, she is found by a girl who gives the reindeer a compass to find her way home. When she sees Santa again, Dasher asks for a special present to thank the girl who helped her.

This is a sweet story about exuberance in waiting for a holiday and receiving help to find your way home. It’s a calm holiday story to read snuggled up or at bedtime with children ages 3 to 8.

Middle Grades

“Oh, Sal” by popular children’s author-illustrator Kevin Henkes is great for early chapter book readers. Caregivers also might consider reading this one aloud.

It’s the holiday season, and 4-year-old Sal Miller should be more excited. But she just became a big sister, which also means she’s now a middle child – and she’s feeling out of sorts. Mom seems to spend all of her time with the baby, and older brother Billy is bonding with Uncle Jake. Plus, she lost her favorite gift from Santa. How is she going to turn things around?

Sal and the entire Miller family are a delightfully ordinary family navigating the ups and downs we all experience, and “Oh, Sal” is a touching story about celebration and love.

Young Adults

Teen romance fans may enjoy “Eight Nights of Flirting” by Hannah Reynolds.

Shira Barbanel decides this Hanukkah she is going to land a boyfriend. The problem, she figures, is she needs to learn how to flirt.

Enter Tyler Nelson. Shira has spent the past couple of years avoiding Tyler, but after they are thrown together during a storm on Nantucket, she asks for his help practicing her flirting technique.

Their story is charming, and I enjoyed their chemistry, but my favorite parts of the book involved the holiday gatherings with family traditions and lots of food. "Eight Nights" was an easy read that made me feel cozy.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at roseburg.biblionix.com, or contact library staff at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

Winter Reading Program

The library's Winter Reading Program for all ages runs from Dec. 1 through 30. Information about the program, which includes reading logs and book reviews, is available on the library's website at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org.

This Month's Youth Programs

10 a.m. every Tuesday (except Wednesday, Dec. 27) – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

10:15 a.m. every Wednesday – Storytime with Aurora

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3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6 – Artist Exploration for grades K-5

3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14 – Building & Legos for all ages

3-4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 – Winter kids craft activity

3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20 – STEAM program for elementary students

3-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 – Teen Volunteer Hours

3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27 – STEAM program for elementary students

3-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28 – Seasonal kids crafts