

Upper Elementary & Adolescent Program
Updated March 21, 2010

Many parents have asked for suggestions for appropriate “birthday books” to donate. This is a list of books that we would like to have added to Thacher’s library. If none of these appeals to you, factual books about animals, foreign countries, or history are always welcome.

Because so many families are donating birthday books, we are getting quite a few duplicates this year. To prevent this, you can check whether or not the library already has a copy of any book by visiting the school website: thacherschool.org, selecting the library tab. On this page you will be able to connect with the library’s catalog. Enter the title of the book you are considering, then click on “title.”

Additionally, we now keep updated birthday book wish lists posted on the school website, so you can easily check to make sure the book you’d like to donate is still wanted. If you have ordered or purchased a book that you plan to give, please consider emailing us so we can take it off the list: library@thacherschool.org. Please feel free to call Joy or Andrea if you have any questions. Thank you.

Eyewitness Books: These are terrific for research for children of all levels.

Car	Sutton & Baquedano	9780756613846
Pond & River	Steve Parker	9780756610593
Natural Disasters	Watts & Day	9780756620721
American Revolution	Stuart Murray	9780756610593
Farm	Ned Halley	9780789460400
Religion	DK Publishing	0756610877
Eyewitness: Epidemic	Brian Ward	0789462966

[Saving the Ghost of the Mountain](#) Sy Montgomery 9780618916450
Nic Bishop’s stunning photographs illustrate this fabulous description of the work scientists do to study and protect elusive snow leopards in Mongolia.

[The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth](#)

Kathleen Krull 9780375845611

“Plowing a potato field in 1920, a 14-year-old farm boy from Idaho saw in the parallel rows of overturned earth a way to ‘make pictures fly through the air.’ This boy was not a magician; he was a scientific genius and just eight years later he made his brainstorm in the potato field a reality by transmitting the world’s first television image.” – publisher

[Lucy Long Ago](#) Catherine Thimmesh 9780547051994
“This story of scientific sleuthing invites us to wonder what our ancestors were like. From the discovery of Lucy’s bones in Hadar, Ethiopia, to the process of recovering and interpreting ... this book shows how a pile of 47 bones led scientists to discover a new -- and, at 3.2 million years old, a very very old -- species of hominid, ancestral to humans.” - publisher

Zoobreak Gordon Korman 9780545124997
“When Griffin Bing's class goes to a floating zoo, they don't expect to see animals being treated so badly. They don't expect to find Cleo, Dog Whisperer Savannah's pet monkey who's been missing for weeks. And they really don't expect to have to hide the animals once they've rescued them! Hilarity ensues as Griffin's team once more pulls off a heist...trying to break the animals back into a (better) zoo!”
- publisher

Funny Business: Conversations with Writers of Comedy Marcus, Ed. 9780763632540
Thirteen interviews with well-known authors of children's books, including Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary, and Christopher Paul Curtis. An entertaining book for all, but especially valuable for aspiring writers.

King Lear Gareth Hinds 9780763643430
A wonderful graphic novel presentation of Shakespeare's classic tale.

Adventures in Cartooning: How to Turn Your Doodles Into Comics James Sturm 9781596433694
An innovative book that teaches the elements of constructing comics strips through a cartoon format.

Al Capone Shines My Shoes Gennifer Choldenko 9780803734609
“Choldenko delivers a crowd-pleasing sequel to her Newbery Honor-winning *Al Capone Does My Shirts*.” --*Horn Book*

Galileo's Leaning Tower Experiment Macdonald 9781570918698
Galileo rethinks Aristotle's view of the world of science with help from his young friend Massimo. An interesting story and an introduction to experimenting to understand the world around us.

Eleanor, Quiet No More Doreen Rappaport 9780786851416
This biography of Eleanor Roosevelt shows how she grew to become an influential, principled woman.

Waggit's Tale Peter Howe 9780061242632
A tale of a pack of dog who live in Central Park. The sequel Waggit Again would also be well used in the library.

Nevermore: A Photobiography of Edgar Allen Poe Karen Lange 9781426303982
An intriguing biography of an influential poet who led a tragic life.

The Enemy: A Book About Peace Cali 9780375845000
Starred Review, School Library Journal, April 2009:
"Poignant, thought-provoking, and powerful in its frankness and simplicity, this short piece will prompt discussion on war and other means of resolving conflict."

Delicious: The Life Art of Wayne Thiebaud Higson 9780811851688

“One of the giants of American art, Wayne Thiebaud was at first unappreciated because of the everyday subject matter of his paintings. His tasty hot dogs, delectable cakes, dizzy streets, and sleepy deltas have since become icons of twentieth century art.” -pub. A gorgeous presentation of his life and works.

Silent Music James Rumford 9781596432765

“A boy’s ingenuous voice introduces American readers to the beauty and discipline of Arabic calligraphy in this mood piece set in Baghdad...Ali finds comfort in practicing his letters during the turmoil that has reigned in Baghdad since 2003...The quiet text doesn’t dwell on politics or conflict, simply on one boy’s desire to find peace in his own life and how he uses calligraphy as a vehicle.” - Kirkus

Six Innings: A Game in the Life James Preller 9780312367633

“Dishing up a rare example of a character-driven tale that is also suspenseful and exciting, the author of the Jigsaw Jones series chronicles a magnificent championship game between two Little League teams that is as much about the players as the plays.”—*Booklist*, Starred Review

Someone Named Eva Joan Wolf 0618535799

“Based on extensive research and interviews with survivors, Wolf tells the heartwrenching story of the fictional Milada, who is sent to a Lebensborn center and adopted by the commandant of Ravensbruck. Readers are quickly immersed into her character, gaining a painful understanding of her intense struggle to hold onto her true self and identity. “ – SLJ

The Book Book: A Journey into Bookmaking

Sophie Pietromarchi 9788186211243

“Pietromarchi invites children on a unique and poetic journey into the world of bookmaking. Exploring colors, textures, shapes, and feelings, she demonstrates how to turn these intangible elements into pictorial narratives, using such unlikely fodder as pencil shavings, onions, dust, and leaves.” – publisher

Masterpiece Elise Broach 0805082700

A powerful tale of friendship between a boy and an artistically gifted beetle. An entertaining adventure.

Baseball Great Tim Green 0061626864

Another great sports novel by Tim Green, who prior to writing played for the Atlanta Falcons. This is the tale of Josh, a twelve year old being pushed to play more and more competitively, who must deal with the temptation of steroids.