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## We at AIM-VA would like to wish you a wonderful Winter Break!

### News You Can Use



Keeping your students reading over the Winter Break is important. While winter break is not at all as long as the summer break, where the 'summer slide' is known to cause reading and learning loss,

it is important to keep students engaged and learning outside the classroom. Lisa Altman, Instructional Sharing Manager of the KIPP Foundation provides some tips for teachers.

**Read More** 

### Did You Know?



Winter break is a great time to warm up with a good book. Be sure to order your students' accessible books so they can enjoy reading those wintery, holiday stories. Check out a few of the great titles below that are in AIM-VA's library. We have listed 2 examples for each grade level.

# **Lower Elementary**

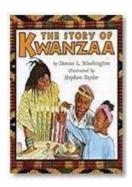
### A Lucky New Year



In the book, A Lucky New Year, Ling feels lucky after she sees eight animals from the Chinese calendar. But she finds that being with her family makes her feel even luckier.

(Google)

### The Story of Kwanzaa



The 7 principles of Kwanzaa remind African Americans of the struggles of the past, and focus on present-day achievements and goals for the future. The fun book continues with activities at the end of the book.

(Amazon)

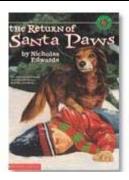
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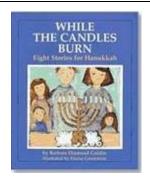
# **Upper Elementary**

The Return of Santa Paws

While the Candles Burn



Surviving a plane crash, Santa Paws, a oncehomeless dog, and his new owner, Gregory, struggle through the winter's cold to find their way home. (Amazon)



Reflecting the key themes of the Festival of Lights, eight original and retold stories on commitment, courage, miracles, religious freedom, faith, and peace.

(Amazon)

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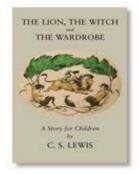
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### Middle School

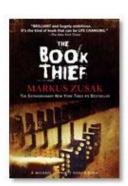
#### The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe



In the never-ending war between good and evil, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is set in Narnia ... a land frozen in eternal winter ... a country waiting to be set free. Four adventurers step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia -- a land enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change ... and a great sacrifice.

(Google)

#### The Book Thief



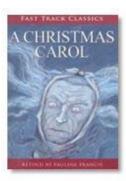
It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist-books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. (Amazon)

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## **High School**

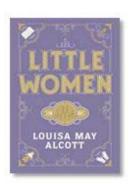
#### A Christmas Carol



A Christmas Carol is an imaginative and entertaining tale relates Ebenezer Scrooge's eerie encounters with a series of spectral visitors. Journeying with them through Christmases past, present, and future, he is ultimately transformed from an arrogant, obstinate, and insensitive miser to a generous, warmhearted, and caring human being.

(Amazon)

#### Little Women



An all-American tale of virtue and true love,
Little Woman is the nineteenth-century
coming-of-age story of Meg, Jo, Beth, and
Amy March. Following the lives of four sisters
on a journey out of adolescence, Louisa May
Alcott's Little Women explores the difficulties
associated with gender roles in a Post-Civil
War America.
(Goodreads)

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