

WINTER(Y) BREAK READING RECOMMENDATIONS



Davis, Aubrey; illustrated by Dusan Petricic. *Bone Button Borscht*. Buffalo, NY: Kids Can Press, 1997.

On a dark winter's night, a ragged beggar dreams of a warm hearth and a delicious meal — and sets out to find just that. In this retelling of the classic folk tale "Stone Soup," a stranger teaches the poor villagers what can be accomplished with a few buttons and a little cooperation. (Preschool, Primary)



Lasky, Kathryn; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. *Marven of the Great North Woods*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1997.

When the influenza epidemic strikes Duluth, Minnesota, in 1918, Marven's parents send their son far away from the danger of the disease. But a logging camp in the great north woods? A true story of a small Jewish boy and a bearish French-Canadian lumberjack and how they became friends under the most unusual circumstances. (Primary, Elementary)

Kerr, Philip. *The Winter Horses*. New York: Ember, 2014



It will soon be another cold winter in the Ukraine. But it's 1941, and things are different this year. Max, the devoted caretaker of an animal preserve, must learn to live with the Nazis who have overtaken this precious land. He must also learn to keep secrets—for there is a girl, Kalinka, who is hiding in the park. Kalinka has lost her home, her family, her belongings — everything but her life. Still, she has gained one small, precious gift: a relationship with the rare wild and wily Przewalski's horses that wander the preserve. Aside from Max, these endangered animals are her only friends — until a Nazi campaign of extermination nearly wipes them out for good. Now Kalinka must set out on a treacherous journey across the frozen forest to save the only two surviving horses — and herself. (Middle School, High School)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis; pictures by Lou Fancher and Steve Johnson. *A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day*. New York: Viking, 2016.



A celebration of the extraordinary life of Ezra Jack Keats, creator of *The Snowy Day*. Jacob (Jack) Ezra Katz, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. The family were struggling Polish-Jewish immigrants, and despite Keats's obvious talent, his father worried that Ezra's dream of being an artist was an unrealistic one. But Ezra was determined. By high school he was winning prizes and scholarships. Later, jobs followed with the WPA and Marvel comics. But it was many years before Keats's greatest dream was realized and he had the opportunity to write and illustrate his own book, winner of the Caldecott Medal and the first mainstream book to feature an African American child. (Elementary)



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Singer, Isaac Bashevis; pictures by Maurice Sendak; translated from the Yiddish by the author and Elizabeth Shub. *Zlateh the Goat and Other Stories*. New York: Harper & Row, 1966.

Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer introduces readers to the village of Chelm — a village of fools — in this Newbery Honor Book. Several of the seven magical folktales spun by a master storyteller feature wintery themes, including "The Snow in Chelm," "The Devil's Trick," and "Zlateh the Goat." (All Ages)

Tarbescu, Edith; illustrated by Judith Christine Mills. *The Boy Who Stuck Out His Tongue: A Yiddish Folk Tale*. New York: Barefoot Books, 2000.



When the widow asks her son to light the fire, he just sticks his tongue out at her. But when he gets himself into a sticky situation, the kind folk of the little village are quick to rally around. The good-natured hustle and bustle of life in a little Hungarian village is vividly captured in this comical Yiddish folk tale which shows that, however inept the individual, when the community works as a whole, wonders can happen. (Preschool, Primary)