

FROM FESTIVAL TO FEAST: A Suggested Thanksgiving Reading List: Grades K-4

Strawbery Banke Education Department, 2004

Alcott, Louisa May. *An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving*. Applewood Books, 1991.

ISBN: 1-5570-9135-8

A heartwarming story set in rural New Hampshire in the 1800s. As the Thanksgiving Day festivities are beginning, the Bassetts must leave on an emergency. The two eldest children are in charge of the household--they prepare a holiday meal like they've never had before! --- Publisher's Note

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving*. Simon & Schuster, 2002.

ISBN 0-6898-4787-4

Anderson turns a little-known historical tidbit into a fresh, funny, and inspirational alternative to the standard Thanksgiving stories. In a quest to make Thanksgiving an annual national holiday, Sarah Hale began 38 years of letter writing to government officials. Ignored or refused by administration after administration, she persisted until at last, President Lincoln listened to her pleas. The message of this book is "Never give up." This book does adhere to some of the stereotypical views of the early Thanksgiving holiday in its depiction of Native Americans and Pilgrims; however, the important part is the story it tells about the 19th-century development of the holiday. The whole book can still be used as a teaching tool. --- Strawbery Banke Education Department

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). *The Circle of Thanks: Native American Poems and Songs of Thanksgiving*. Bridge Water Books, 1996.

ISBN 0-8167-4012-7.

The custom of giving thanks is deeply ingrained among the native peoples of North America. Award-winning Native American storyteller Joseph Bruchac has gathered thirteen beautiful thanksgiving pieces, honoring every aspect of creation. Murv Jacob's dramatic illustrations celebrate native cultures and the importance of giving thanks. --- Publisher's Note

Bruchac, James. *Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving*. Harcourt, 2000.

ISBN 0-15-201817-4.

Joseph Bruchac, a prolific and award-winning author of Native American descent describes life in 1620 for a man who was destined to save the Pilgrims even as he was losing his family and tribe. Told from Squanto's point of view, this historically accurate and detailed story brings to life one of the most important moments in America's past. Throughout this moving tale, Squanto's belief that "these men can share our land as friends" poignantly shines through. Greg Shed's gouache illustrations capture the warmth and dignity of Squanto and his friends. Young readers will be fascinated by this lesser-known perspective on the Thanksgiving tradition that remains strong today. --- Emilie Coulter amazon.com Book Reviewer

Child, Lydia Maria. *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1974.

ISBN 0-5900-9937-X

Recalling a simpler time, this book captures the poem's sense of excitement and celebration. Readers who join the family en route to Grandfather's house will observe many details about life in the 19th century. . . . Manson's woodcuts, painted in the colors of a snowy evening, lovingly depict the wintry countryside.--School Library Journal

Waters, Kate. In cooperation with Plimoth Plantation. *Giving Thanks: The 1621 Harvest Feast*. Scholastic, 2001.

ISBN 0-439-27463-X.

Sometime between September 21 and November 9, 1621, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people shared a harvest celebration that has become known as the First Thanksgiving. This is the story of what happened during those days, as told by Dancing Moccasins, a fourteen-year-old Wampanoag boy, and Resolved White, a six-year-old English boy. Photographed in full color at the Plimoth Plantation, this accurate reenactment will let you experience a time when early English colonists settled on the rich and fertile land of the Wampanoag people.--- Publisher's Note

FROM FESTIVAL TO FEAST

A Suggested Thanksgiving Reading List: Grades 4-6

Strawbery Banke Education Department, 2004

Alcott, Louisa May. *An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving*. J. B. Lippincott, 1974.
ISBN 0-397-31515-5

Story of the seven Bassett children who pull together to have Thanksgiving dinner after their parents have been called away for an emergency. Set in rural 19th-century New Hampshire, the story provides good details into daily life during the 1800s; however, the language is a bit dated and may be more conducive for reading aloud in a classroom (72pp.). --- Strawbery Banke Education Department

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). *The Circle of Thanks: Native American Poems and Songs of Thanksgiving*. Bridge Water Books, 1996.
ISBN 0-8167-4012-7.

The custom of giving thanks is deeply ingrained among the native peoples of North America. Award-winning Native American storyteller Joseph Bruchac has gathered thirteen beautiful thanksgiving pieces, honoring every aspect of creation. Murv Jacob's dramatic illustrations celebrate native cultures and the importance of giving thanks. --- Publisher's Note

Bruchac, James (Abenaki) and Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki). *Native American Games and Stories*. Fulcrum Publishing, 2000.
ISBN 1-55591-979-0.

Nicely illustrated with Kayeri Akweks' black and white illustrations, James and Joseph Bruchac's *Native American Games And Stories* is a wonderful collection of fun-filled games and intriguing stories that will introduce children to Native American culture, beliefs, and recreational activities. Team sport ball games, bowl games, and games of chance. Illustrative stories involving these games come from a diversity of Native American groups including the Mohawk, Passamaquoddy, Onondaga, Navajo, Jicarilla and Apache. --- Children's Book Watch

Grace, Catherine O'Neill and Margaret M. Bruchac (Abenaki). *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*. National Geographic Society, 2001.
ISBN 0-7922-7027-4.

In October of 2000, Plimoth Plantation cooperated with the Wampanoag community to stage an historically accurate reenactment of the 1621 harvest celebration. *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving* exposes the myth that this event was the "first Thanksgiving" and is the basis for the Thanksgiving holiday that is celebrated today. This exciting book describes the actual events that took place during the three days that the Wampanoag people and the colonists came together. The photographs taken by Sisse Brimberg and Cotton Coulson capture the spirit of the event and bring it to life. Co-authors Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac worked closely with Plimoth Plantation historians to produce this timely new book that tells the whole story by including the voices of all who were involved. ---Publisher's Note

Greenwood, Barbara. *A Pioneer Thanksgiving: A Story of Harvest Celebrations in 1841*. Kids Can Press, 2003.
ISBN: 1-5507-4574-3

This story follows the Robertson family as they prepare for a celebration of the harvest of 1841. Greenwood spins a heartwarming and exciting tale of the Robertson children's adventures gathering cranberries for sauce and chestnuts for stuffing, making festival bread, and listening to stories of the "hungry year" from old Mr. Burkholder. But readers are given more than a story: the text is filled with related topics, including recipes, as well as instructions for making craft projects and playing games from the time period. There are also sections that explain actions and events from the story. For example, a segment "Harvest Superstitions" follows a chapter in the story in which Sarah Robertson sits at her ailing grandmother's bedside making a corn dolly, a braided straw doll that Granny insists must be ploughed into the earth each spring to ensure a good harvest. A history of harvest celebrations throughout the years ends the book. --- Publisher's Note