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Children's Book-a-Day Almanac



Synopsis

Part fun- and information-filled almanac, part good book guide, the Children's Book-a-Day Almanac is a new way to discover a great children's book--every day of the year! This fresh, inventive reference book is a dynamic way to showcase the gems, both new and old, of children's literature. Each page features an event of the day, a children's book that relates to that event, and a list of other events that took place on that day. Always informative and often surprising, celebrate a year of literature for children with The Children's Book-a-Day Almanac.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a big fan of Anita Silvey's blog, Children's Book-A-Day Almanac, and have followed it since its inception in 2010. In fact, I'm a great fan of Anita's other books that explore children's books and their creators, (Children's Books and Their Creators, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1995; The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators, Houghton Mifflin Co., 2002, in which I was also a contributing writer; and one of my favorite of all time books, Everything I Need to Know I Learned From A Children's Book, Roaring Brook Press, 2009). My favorite aspect of Anita's genius is her insider information on how these books were created. With each entry, she offers fascinating insights into the backstory of the author (and sometimes the illustrator!), the context of the story, and a sneak peak of the story itself. I look forward to reading her blog every morning. So I was pleased as punch to learn that Anita has created a book that follows the same format as her blog. As the title promises, the book opens with a favorite on January 1, Esther Forbes' Johnny Tremain. On each

day thereafter, a new book is showcased. From Dav Pilkey's *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*, Phillip Hoose's *The Race to Save The Lord God Bird*, Bobbie Pyron's *A Dog's Way Home*, and David Shannon's *Duck on a Bike*, the almanac "shines the spotlight on the best books for young readers." With each entry, Anita offers information on the backstory of the author and book, its ideal audience, and how the book connected with its audience, as well as a sidebar of events and titles related to these events.

Anita Silvey is a national treasure. I discovered this lady after spending months searching for the single best list of children's books I could find. I spent a lot of my time searching for that list. I was working at becoming a writer, and decided I wanted to work in children's literature. As I began to learn my craft, I suddenly realized I had not had children's books as a child (maybe two or three.) and if I were going to succeed, I would have to gain a strong foundation by reading as many great children's books as I could. After many, many searches, I came across "100 Best Books for Children" by Anita Silvey, and within minutes, I knew I had found what I was looking for. I spent three years reading the books in "100 Best Books for Children" and many of the additional books she recommended in the back of the book, as well. Anita feels strongly that no child should leave childhood without having read these 100 books, and she has the background and expertise to get this right, and she did! I read a comment by Anita that she believes just one of her carefully chosen children's books could profoundly change a life, young and old alike. Well, I thought that was sweet, but didn't give it further thought. After reading a handful of the books on her list, I was suddenly hit with a blinding emotional flash! She was right. She was right because that is exactly what happened to me, over and over. I absorbed much of the experience and wisdom from those great books and all of that became part of who I am. I sent Anita Silvey a note explaining what I had done and thanking her for her work and what it meant for me, which was that it filled an empty place in my soul with truly great children's books!

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