Thanksgiving

Easy/Fiction

**An old-fashioned Thanksgiving** / Louisa May Alcott

This adaptation of the original story follows the activities of seven in children nineteenth-century New England as they prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday while Mother is away caring for Grandmother.

**The Thanksgiving door** / Debby Atwell

After burning their Thanksgiving dinner, Ann and Ed head for the local cafe, where they are welcomed by an immigrant family into an unusual celebration that gives everyone cause to be thankful.

**Beauty and the beaks : a turkey's cautionary tale** by Mary Jane Auch

When Lance, a very pretentious turkey, arrives on the farm and boasts that he is the only bird invited to a special feast, no hen is impressed, but when Beauty learns that Lance is the main course, she convinces the others to save him.

**Turkey Bowl** by Phil Bildner

Ethan looks forward to the Thanksgiving Day when he and his friends are finally old enough to play in the annual family football game, but that day arrives full of snow and icy roads.

**How many days to America? : a Thanksgiving story** / by Eve Bunting

Refugees from a Caribbean island embark on a dangerous boat trip to America where they have a special reason to celebrate Thanksgiving.

**One is a feast for Mouse : a Thanksgiving tale** by Judy Cox

On Thanksgiving Day while everyone naps, Mouse spots one pea, a perfect feast, but he cannot help adding all of the fixings—until Cat spots him.

**We gather together-- now please get lost!** / Diane deGroat.

Gilbert the opossum gets stuck with a tattletale “buddy” on a class trip to Pilgrim Town.

**Time for cranberries** by Lis H Detlefsen

Sam helps his parents harvest cranberries on their family farm in Wisconsin. Includes recipes for cranberry sauce and cranberry pie, author’s note, and glossary.

**My first Thanksgiving** / Tomie dePaola.

Introduces in simple text some of the family activities associated with the celebration of Thanksgiving.

**Feast for 10** / Cathryn Falwell.

New York : Clarion Books, c1993. Numbers from one to ten are used to tell how members of a family shop and work together to prepare a meal.

**The great Thanksgiving escape** by Mark Fearing. 2014

It’s another Thanksgiving at Grandma’s. Gavin expects a long day of boredom and being pestered by distantly related toddlers, but his cousin Rhonda has a different idea: make a break for it - out of the kids’ room to the swing set in the backyard!

**Thanksgiving rules** by Laurie B Friedman. 2012

Young Percy Isaac Gifford provides a list of ten rules for getting the most out of Thanksgiving Day, especially how best to enjoy the buffet.

**Thanksgiving is here!** / by Diane Goode.

A family gathers to celebrate Thanksgiving at Grandma’s house.

Thanksgiving, pilgrims, native americans

**Thanksgiving**
The memory cupboard: a Thanksgiving story by Charlotte Herman
When Katie breaks a gravy boat at Thanksgiving dinner, her grandmother shows her that love is more important than objects.

More snacks! : a Thanksgiving play / by Joan Holub ; ill.Will Terry.
The kids of Ant Hill do a play about their ancestors’ first Thanksgiving when they hopped on the Mayflower and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and made many new six-legged friends around a big harvest spread.

I know an old lady who swallowed a pie by Alison Jackson
A parody of the accumulative rhyme "There was an old lady who swallowed a fly" in which a guest at a Thanksgiving dinner eats everything in sight.

Tattered sails by Verla Kay
Illustrations and simple rhyming text depict the journey of a family from London to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635.

Run, Turkey run by Diane Mayr
The day before Thanksgiving, Turkey tries to disguise himself as other animals in order to avoid being caught by the farmer.

Thank you, Thanksgiving / by David Milgrim.
While on a Thanksgiving Day errand for her mother, a girl says thank you to all the things around her.

Gracias /Thanks / by Pat Mora ; ill.by John Parra ; trans. Adriana Domínguez.
A young multiracial boy celebrates by telling about some of the everyday things for which he is thankful.

Pilgrim cat / Carol Antoinette Peacock ; illustrated by Doris Ettlinger.
A young pilgrim girl and the cat she discovers on the Mayflower voyage begin their life.

'Twas the night before Thanksgiving / story and pictures by Dav Pilkey.
School children on a field trip save the lives of eight turkeys in this poem based on "The Night Before Christmas."

Thelonius Turkey lives! : (on Felicia Ferguson's farm) / Lynn Rowe Reed.
As Thanksgiving Day approaches, Thelonius Turkey becomes worried when Felicia the farmer starts to fatten him up and pluck his feathers.

The Thanksgiving beast feast / Karen Gray Ruelle.
Harry and his sister Emily celebrate Thanksgiving by making a holiday feast for the animals in their yard.

Thanksgiving at the Tappletons' by Eileen Spinelli
When calamity stalks every step of the preparations for the Tappletons' Thanksgiving dinner, they realize that there is more to Thanksgiving than turkey and trimmings (humorous).

Turkey trouble by Wendi J Silvano
Turkey nervously makes a series of costumes, disguising himself as other farm animals in hopes that he can avoid being served as Thanksgiving dinner.

I am the turkey / story by Michele Sobel Spirn; pictures by Joy Allen.
Mark does not want to play the turkey in the second grade Thanksgiving play, but he ends up saving the day.

Thanksgiving is for giving thanks / by Margaret Sutherland ; ill. Sonja Lamut.
A child lists all the things for which he is thankful, especially at Thanksgiving.

FICTION
Thanks to Lucy by Ilene Cooper (easy chapter book)
Bobby Quinn has a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving--including his beagle Lucy, who hasn't been acting like herself.

A Thanksgiving wish / Michael J. Rosen ; painting by John Thompson.
When Amanda's grandmother dies and the extended family tries to recreate her famous Thanksgiving meal, friends and neighbors pitch in to help carry on Bubbe's traditions.
A Thanksgiving turkey / by Julian Scheer ; illustrated by Ronald Himler.  
A thirteen-year-old boy and his mother move to a farm in rural Virginia, where he and his grandfather try to hunt a wild turkey.

The Thanksgiving Day from the Black Lagoon by Mike Thaler. 2014. 
Hubie's class is giving thanks for the things they enjoy most, but how can Hubie be thankful when none of his friends will make a float with him? How can Hubie eat all of the food for Thanksgiving dinner?

### Thanksgiving Information Books

- **Thanksgiving Day : a time to be thankful** / Elaine Landau.  
  A special day -- The first Thanksgiving -- The making of a holiday -- A time for eating-- and more -- Turkey seating cards craft project -- Words to know.

- **Sarah gives thanks** by Mike Allegra  
  The story of Sarah Josepha Hale, who pushed the idea of establishing Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

- **Thanksgiving is--** / Gail Gibbons  
  An introduction to the history and customs of Thanksgiving.

- **Celebrate Thanksgiving** / Deborah Heiligman ; consultant, Elizabeth Pleck.

- **Thanksgiving** by Lisa M Herrington  
  Introduces the youngest readers to the traditions, festivities, and history of Thanksgiving.

- **Creating Thanksgiving crafts** by Dana Meachen Rau.  
  Thanksgiving decorations

- **What is Thanksgiving?** / Harriet Ziefert ; pictures by Claire Schumacher.  
  Little Mouse helps her family prepare for Thanksgiving dinner.

- **We gather together : celebrating the harvest season** / by Wendy Pfeffer.  
  *Gilbert the opossum gets stuck with a tattletale "buddy" on a class trip to Pilgrim Town.*

- **From seed to pumpkin** / by Wendy Pfeffer  
  Learn how pumpkins grow from tiny seeds to big pumpkins.

- **The pumpkin book** / by Gail Gibbons.  
  Describes how pumpkins come in different shapes and sizes, how they grow, and their traditional uses and cultural significance. Includes instructions for carving a pumpkin and drying the seeds.

- **Balloons over Broadway : the true story of the puppeteer of Macy's Parade** by Melissa Sweet.  
  Tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg and his helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

- **Over the river and through the wood : the New England boy's song about Thanksgiving** day by Lydia Maria Child  
  The horse is ready, the air is bracing, and everyone is bundled into the sleigh. So let the wind blow and the snow start to fall! This family is off to Grandfather's house for a delicious feast.

- **Small plays for special days** / Sue Alexander.  
  *Meow! and Arf! a play for Thanksgiving.* p.17.

- **Apples, pumpkins, and harvest** / by Ann Flagg. : ready-to-go activities, games, literature selections, poetry and more for a complete theme unit.

- **Thanksgiving** / written by Ireta Sitts Graube ;  
  Literature-based thematic units.

- **November monthly activities : intermediate** / Dona Herweck Rice  
  Huntington Beach, CA : Teacher Created Materials, c1996.
PILGRIMS
EASY/FICTION

The very first Thanksgiving Day by Rhonda Gowler Greene C E GREE VERY
Rhyming verses trace the events leading up to the first Thanksgiving Day. 2002

Three young pilgrims by Cheryl Harness C E HARN THRE
Mary, Remember, and Bartholomew are among the pilgrims who survive the harsh early years in America and see New Plymouth grow into a prosperous colony.

Thanksgiving on Plymouth Plantation / by Diane Stanley ; ill. Holly Berry. C E STAN THAN
Twins Liz and Lenny, along with their time-traveling grandmother, visit Plymouth Plantation to see how the Pilgrims lived and to celebrate a big feast with the Pilgrims and Native Americans.

Thanksgiving : a harvest celebration / written by Julie Stiegemeyer ; C E STIE THAN
The 102 travelers left the port of Plymouth, England, bound for the promise of a new beginning in a new world.


INFORMATION BOOKS

1621 : a new look at Thanksgiving / Catherine O'Neill Grace C 394.2649 GRAC 2001
Bountiful harvest -- People of the first light: Wampanoag language -- Colonizing the New World -- Wampanoag diplomacy: Making a myth -- Harvest: The land's plenty -- Giving thanks: Evolution of a holiday

Thanksgiving by Lisa M Herrington C 394.2649 HERR 2013
A day of thanks -- How it began -- Thanksgiving today. A Rookie Reader

This first Thanksgiving Day : a counting story / by Laura Krauss Melmed ; C 811.54 MELM 2001
Twelve short poems that combine counting with the story of the first Thanksgiving.

This is the feast / by Diane Z. Shore ; illustrated by Megan Lloyd. C 811.6 SHOR 2008
A first Thanksgiving story depicts the celebration of friendship between the Pilgrims and their neighbors, the Indians.

Stranded at Plimoth Plantation, 1626 / words and woodcuts by Gary Bowen. C 973.2 BOWE 1994
Colonial times, 1600-1700 / Joy Masoff. C 973.2 MASO 2000
Re-creates early American settlements by describing various aspects of the colonists’ lives.

... if you sailed on the Mayflower / by Ann McGovern C 973.2 MCGO 1991
Questions and answers describe the Mayflower voyage and the Pilgrim's first year in the New World.

The story of the Pilgrims / by Katharine Ross. C 973.2 ROSS 1995
The Mayflower by Mark Greenwood C 974.4 GREE 2014
The adventurous life of Myles Standish and the amazing-but-true survival C 974.4 HARN 2006
story of the Plymouth Colony / written and illustrated by Cheryl Harness.

Pilgrims : a nonfiction companion to Thanksgiving on Thursday / by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce ; illustrated by Sal Murdocca.

On the Mayflower : voyage of the ship's apprentice & a passenger girl / by Kate Waters

A twelve-year-old apprentice and a seven-year-old passenger experience the first voyage of the Mayflower.

The Mayflower Compact / Judith Lloyd Yero.

Discusses the Pilgrims' voyage to Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the colony they established after their arrival, aided by Native Americans and governed by an agreement called the Mayflower Compact.

The pilgrims of Plimoth / written and illustrated by Marcia Sewall.

Chronicles, in text and illustrations, the day-to-day life of the early Pilgrims in the Plimouth Colony.

Colonial days : discover the past with fun projects, games, activities, and recipes by David C King; Bobbie Moore. Discusses colonial life in America, depicts a year in the life of a fictional colonial family, and presents projects and activities, such as butter churning, candle dipping, baking bread, and playing colonial games.


November : a creative idea book for the elementary teacher by Karen Sevaly

Thanksgiving Day / by Gail Gibbons.


NATIVE AMERICANS

Squanto's journey : the story of the first Thanksgiving / Joseph Bruchac.

Squanto recounts how in 1614 he was captured by the British, sold into slavery in Spain, and ultimately returned to the New World to become a guide and friend for the colonists.

Ikwa of the Mound-Builder Indians by Margaret Zehmer Searcy

Twelve-year-old Ikwa's first offering to the sun god brings a sign that foretells great changes in her life. 2009

Jingle dancer / Cynthia Leitich Smith ; ill.Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu.

Jenna, a member of the Muscogee, or Creek, Nation, borrows jingles from the dresses of several friends and relatives so that she can perform the jingle dance at the powwow.

Coyote speaks : wonders of the Native American world by Ari Berk

Explores through words and images the stories and cultures of some Native American tribes. 2008

The popcorn book / Tomie de Paola.

Facts and legends about popcorn, including how Indians brought it for the first Thanksgiving dinner.

Native Americans / created by Gallimard Jeunesse, Ute Fuhr, and Raoul Sautai.


First people by David C King

With the help of modern and historic images, innovative page layouts, and compelling first-person accounts, an eye-opening look at the richness and variety of North American natives presents each tribe as an individual, evolving culture, with its own history, artwork, and traditions.


Provides an overview of the past and present lives of the Wampanoag Indians, covering their daily life, customs, relations with the government and others, and more.

Squanto, 1585?-1622 / by Arlene B. Hirschfelder.

A biography of Squanto, a Patuxet Indian who served as translator to the Pilgrims of Plymouth in what is now Massachusetts
Squanto and the miracle of Thanksgiving / Eric Metaxas. C 974.4004 META 1999
Describes how the Massachusetts Indian Squanto was captured by the British, sold into slavery in Spain, and ultimately returned to the New World to become a guide and friend for the Pilgrims.

Pocahontas by Shannon Knudsen C 975.5 ZEML 2002
An introduction to the life of Pocahontas, a Powhatan Indian, which covers her birth, meetings with English settlers, trip to England, family life, and death.

The Navajo year, walk through many seasons / written by Nancy Bo Flood ; ill. by Billy Whitethorne. 2006. Describes sights, sounds, and activities associated with each month.

Keepers of life : discovering plants through Native American stories and earth activities for children / Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac SCI 372.35 CADU 1998

Northeast Indians : easy make & learn projects / by Donald M. Silver. SOC 974.004 SILV 2005


Recommended books from an American Indian perspective
from www.oyate.org

Giving thanks : a Native American good morning message [book and tape] B/T C E SWAM GIVI
/ by Chief Jake Swamp. A children's version of the Thanksgiving Address, a message of gratitude that originated with the Native people of upstate New York and Canada and that is still spoken at ceremonial gatherings held by the Iroquois

Four Seasons of Corn: A Winnebago Tradition. grades 4-6. / Hunter, Sally M. (Ojibwe). C 394.1 HUNT FOUR
Twelve-year-old Russell learns how to grow and dry corn from his Winnebago grandfather.

Thanksgiving : the true story / Penny Colman. C 394.2649 COLM 2008
Examines numerous competing claims for the first Thanksgiving, including the traditional story of the feast shared by the Pilgrims and Native Americans in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

1621 : a new look at Thanksgiving / Catherine O’Neill Grace C 394.2649 GRAC 2001
Bountiful harvest -- People of the first light: Wampanoag language -- Colonizing the New World -- Wampanoag diplomacy: Making a myth -- Harvest: The land's plenty -- Giving thanks: Evolution of a holiday

grades 4-6. Steven Peters, a twelve-year-old Wampanoag Indian in Massachusetts, learns from his grandfather how to prepare a clambake in the tradition of his people.

MEDIA

Music of the American colonies [sound recording] /Anne & Ridley Enslow MEDIA MUS 782 AMER
Explores songs of the colonial period in their historical context.

Life in colonial America [picture]. MEDIA SOC 973.2 LIFE PT.1 - 3
Madison, WI : Knowledge Unlimited, c1997. 3 posters Pt. 1 New England colonies - 1650 – Pt. 2 Middle colonies - 1700 – Pt.3 Southern colonies - 1750

Native Americans [chart]. MEDIA SOC 970.1 NATI

Moving within the circle: contemporary native American music and dance / Bryan Burton. MUS 781.62 BURT 1993