Introducing… The Great Children’s Book Collection!

Phoenix Public Library’s Great Children’s Book Collection is a wide selection of librarian-picked classic children’s book titles. These books offer a variety of modern and vintage titles in large quantities for maximum diversity and access.

Unlike other library materials, the books in this unique collection cannot be renewed or placed on hold. This means more copies will be available for check-out when you want them!

Titles from The Great Children’s Book Collection can be found now at Burton Barr Central Library and at Agave, Cesar Chavez, Cholla, Desert Broom, Desert Sage, Harmon, Ironwood, Juniper, Mesquite, Ocotillo, Palo Verde, Saguaro, South Mountain Community and Yucca Libraries beginning Monday, December 10.

Learn more on our website.
Discover Phoenix Public Library’s Best of 2018

Looking for the absolute best of what 2018 had to offer in books, movies, and music?

Look no further than our Best of 2018 guide with the year’s top picks gathered from all over.

Get those library cards ready because these stellar titles are ready for you!

Find them on our website in early December.

Voices: Family

Communities are comprised of a diversity of experiences and perspectives and the voices that emerge from those experiences and perspectives. We believe that these voices make for a richer, more meaningful experience for all.

Join Phoenix Public Library in enjoying and learning from the many voices of our community through monthly themes meant to educate, entertain and inspire.

In December we celebrate the many voices of family – voices that are especially timely this season.

Visit the library website in early December for books, films and music that celebrate the family unit and its influence on our lives and in the community.
Just Read: Old Favorites

We at Phoenix Public Library want you to maintain your goal to read for leisure and/or reading for self-education. Just Read is a come-as-you-are, read-what-you-like online book club and so much more!

Each month, we will announce a book club genre or theme on our website. Read what you like within this genre or theme. Participate throughout the month by posting on social media, tagging Phoenix Public Library and #justreadppl to share, discuss and recommend your book choice. Or, follow along on your own without posting on social media – it’s all good! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube or visit our website for more about the Just Read online book club.

December’s theme is Old Favorites

“No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally – and often far more – worth reading at the age of fifty and beyond.”

- C.S. Lewis

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we might often find ourselves in a whirlwind of festivities, to-do lists, and not enough time for ourselves. This month, may we suggest carving out some cozy time with a book – and not just any book? We invite you to think of a tried-and-true title, one that is a personal favorite to you and which brings back fond memories and when reading it, will be relaxing and just the thing you need to slow down this time of year.

You provide the comfy reading nook, warm drink, and fuzzy socks and we’ll provide the reads.
Check out our website in early December for books that are old favorites of our library staff and others which beg to be read again and again… and again. Happy, cozy reading!

Share what you’re reading with us! Tag us on social media with #justreadppl

Enjoy a Winter Wonderland with us!

Get in the spirit of the season! Join us at one of many wintry-themed events at Phoenix Public Library.

From magical rides on The Polar Express to cozy storytimes and crafty gift-making programs, find an event that's right for you and your family.

And another way to experience a winter wonderland…or at least Phoenix's version of "winter" with Phoenix Public Library? While you are visiting one of our locations, be sure to check out our selection of Culture Passes. With an Act One Culture Pass, explore a local art or cultural institution, including holiday performances!

Please Note: Staff Development Day Closure

All Phoenix Public Library locations with the exception of South Mountain Community Library will be closed Friday, December 7 for Staff Development Day.

Phoenix Public Library will be closed in order to bring all of our staff together from across our system for an annual professional development staff training day. The day will be filled with resources, tools, best practices examples, discussions, and development in order for staff to provide the best possible library services to you!
Celebrate 45 Years of Century Library with Us!

Saturday, December 15 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.  
Century Library

Join us in celebrating 45 years of Century Library. Stroll down memory lane, and see how the library has changed over the years. Sing some karaoke or enjoy the photo booth. While you’re there check out a great cook book or other holiday ideas. Light refreshments will be served. Supported by the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library - Century Branch.

‘Tis the Season for Giving!

Take the guess work out of charitable giving!

Are you thinking about making a donation to a cause you care about, but not sure how best to help? We have resources to help you give thoughtfully and responsibly. Charity Watch and Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance evaluate and rank the best nonprofits so you can fund the programs you want to support.

Want to contribute to the library? Find ways to help support Phoenix Public Library programs and initiatives.

Learn more on our website.
**eResource Feature: Axis 360**

Borrow the hottest new titles and more with your library card. Gain access to thousands of titles – some not available from other platforms – to read or listen to on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

Axis 360 is now a digital Best ePicks collection. You'll find the most popular authors, as well as titles you can't get anywhere else.

- Axis 360 titles cannot be placed on hold
- Axis 360 titles cannot be renewed
- 3 items per card at one time
- 2 week checkout

Have your [Phoenix Public Library card](#) ready and [access Axis 360 for FREE](#).

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**Collection Development: Old Favorites**

*Julie Andrews made famous Richard Rodgers’ lyrics:*

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens  
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens  
Brown paper packages tied up with strings  
These are a few of my favorite things

*In this holiday season, the Collection Development Department shares a few of their favorite things – all available through the library, of course (another one of our favorite things).*
My favorites are gentle reminders of the need for all of us to treasure relationships. – Kathleen Sullivan

Great minds often share a love for the same book. I, too, was going to recommend **Little Women** (see Jacqui’s recommendations below) particularly because of the chapter in which the four sisters are taught the true meaning of Christmas giving by their mother. However, I can also recommend three more works as classics. **Work, Eight cousins; Rose in bloom; Stories & other writings. Eight Cousins**, and its sequel **Rose in Bloom**, are two more wonderful books by the talented Louisa May Alcott. In marked contrast to the sisters in **Little Women**, Rose is a frail only-child and heiress. Orphaned, she meets for the first time her seven (count ‘em) boy cousins and her new guardian, Uncle Alec. These books were considered revolutionary for their time since they promoted self-reliance in women and taking responsibility for one’s own health and happiness.

My third classic story, was read each Christmas Eve in our family: **The Bible, Luke: Chapter 2** in which is described the communities that gathered as Jesus was born and grew.

These books are gentle reminders of the need for all of us to treasure relationships during all seasons. That is why I re-read them regularly.

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Two of my favorites to share. – Danielle Stanley

**Tigana** by Guy Gavriel Kay is one of my all-time favorites. It’s rare in that it is a very satisfying standalone fantasy novel. Kay is very good at character development and I appreciate that the characters’ struggle with their decisions and the ethics aren’t black and white. This is a moving story that has appeal outside of lovers of the genre. But, if you do love fantasy, this is a NO BRAINER.

Now let’s take it back. Wayyyyyy back. **I Am a Bunny** was my favorite book as a small child and I still love it so much. Richard Scarry’s illustrations are completely charming! The book follows Nicholas, a bunny living through the seasons and marveling at the beauty around him. This is a simple, delightful story to share with children. I buy it for all my friends who are expecting!

My two favorite holiday tales as a child still bring me delight, even as an adult. The warm nostalgia of a snowy, cozy Christmas morning (I grew up in New England) and gathering together with friends and family fills me with joy – especially when an AZ Christmas is a bit warmer and less snowy. —Jacqui Higgins-Dailey

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas** by Dr. Seuss
The book and the beloved cartoon Christmas special that still airs on TV every year were favorites in our family. Reading the book and then making sure we were home
when it was on TV made it a special event. Luckily – now you can check out the book and DVD from the library, in case you miss it on TV!

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
The March Sisters feel like my own sisters every time I read this classic. It might not be a traditional holiday tale, but the warmth of the March hearth on Christmas Eve always makes me want to revisit Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy in snowy Concord, Massachusetts. My favorite movie version stars Winona Ryder as Jo. Pair the book and movie for a back-to-back Christmas delight.

*Celebrating Christmas is one of my favorite things. – Linda Kiecker*

It’s December, and my “old favorites” at this time of year always center on Christmas. Of course, the Phoenix Public Library has a great selection for holiday celebrations of any type, and with those celebrations there is food and music and traditions and family and memories and stories and hopes and, well you get the idea. My favorite holiday is and always has been Christmas. And while I love the recipes from home, and look forward to the gift giving (and receiving), and the time spent with family, what I truly love is the music. My voice isn’t what it used to be, but I can still listen and imagine I am singing with the choirs. For you, dear reader, a search for a favorite song or artist in the [Phoenix Public Library catalog](https://www.library.phoenixlibrary.org), whether on CD or streaming on hoopla or Freegal is easy. But did you know that the library also has music scores for different instruments? You can borrow *Christmas Favorites: Guitar* or *Christmas Favorites: for Violin* both by the Hal Leonard Corp. Like many scores at the library, these two books include a CD with both full performance and play-along tracks. The violin/guitar part includes lyrics to the songs. I may check out *Christmas: 100 Seasonal Favorites: piano/vocal/guitar* and get my entire family involved. After all, an “old favorite” like Christmas music is meant to be shared.
Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Library Closures

All Phoenix Public Library locations will be closed the following dates:

- **Friday, December 7** for Staff Development Day
- Open 9 a.m. to noon on **Monday, December 24** for Christmas Eve
- **Tuesday, December 25** in observance of Christmas Day
- **Tuesday, January 1** in observance of New Year’s Day

[View the website](#) for all upcoming library closures.

[Phoenix Public Library](https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.com) is a system of 16 branch libraries and Burton Barr Central Library.

Keep up with all the news. Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/phxlibrary](https://twitter.com/phxlibrary), follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/phoenixpubliclibrary](https://instagram.com/phoenixpubliclibrary) and “like us” on Facebook at [facebook.com/phoenixpubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/phoenixpubliclibrary).