



DECEMBER READING CALENDAR 2006



By Nile Stanley, Ph. D., University of north Florida <http://www.unf.edu/~nstanley/readcalendar.htm>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Among the Navajo people, winter is a time for learning. It is a tradition to tell stories around the fire. Do you know any coyote legends? Do you know stories of Peace?
2 Time to put up the Christmas stockings. In addition to filling them with goodies, why not slip in daily notes, cartoons, holiday poems and other literary tidbits.	3 Illinois admitted to the Union, 1818. Help your child find it on a map. "National Roof-Over-Your-Head Day." Help the homeless in your town.	4 Don't forget to go to the library to get books for reading aloud on upcoming holiday trips. Read along books, and sing along tapes can be enjoyed in the car too.	5 Sock it to'em today. Create sock puppets to tell a favorite Christmas story. Write an obituary for a sock lost in the dryer. Turn single sad socks into happy holiday helpers.	6 St. Nicholas' Day. How about all those advertisements you got in the newspaper this week? Take those ads and have your child read and compose a wish list.	7 Pearl Harbor Day. Find a story or picture of a group of people who need help. Talk about ways your family might help. Donate mittens, gloves, coats and food to the needy.	8 Look through the newspaper and find the pictures that are your favorites. Paste them on a sheet of paper and make up your own holiday cards.
9 Giant Christmas Tree at Rockefeller center. Tree-lighting of the 75 ft. spruce signals the opening of the 2006 holiday season in New York City.	10 Play Santa's Syllables. List one-syllable words: elf, sleigh; two-syllable words: dasher, reindeer; and three-syllable words: December, holiday. Winners list the most words.	11 Make a paper Peace Dove Kite from Anthony's Kite Workshop in Australia. Make dozens and hang them up everywhere to promote peace.	12 Peacelets: Do creative writing exercise to imagine crazy possibilities of peace and unusual ends to war. Help create solution-oriented approaches to conflict.	13 Give the gift of knowledge all year? More than 20 national magazines for children are published in the Unites States. Ask the school or public Liberians.	14 Alabama became 22nd state in 1819. today begins the Audubon Christmas Bird count, the annual census of winter birds since 1900. How many different birds can you identify?	15 Just 10 days until Christmas. Time to get out the holiday song book. Carol by candle-light. Have your children read and sing lyrics: "Deck the Halls and Jingle Bells."
16 Boston Tea party Anniversary, 1773. Man Will Never Fly Meeting: annual event in Kitty Hawk. NC since 1903. Posada—a nine-day annual celebration throughout Mexico.	17 Wright Brothers First Powered flight, 1903. Have your child help you make those holiday goodies. Also, don't forget to read aloud incoming holiday cards.	18 Mexico: Feast of Our lady of Solitude. Don't forget to send your teacher a holiday greeting. Parents, please provide paper, crayons and art supplies.	19 You and your child might clean house today. Donate those unwanted clothes, toys, and games to the less fortunate. Teach the spirit of giving.	20 Underdog Day Praise an unsung hero today! Read the sky. Look up at night and identify the constellations. Books in the library can provide star maps.	21 Humbug Day. Allows everyone preparing for Christmas to vent their frustrations. Twelve "humbugs" allowed. Pilgrim Landing Anniversary, 1620, Plymouth, MA.	22 Dads, don't forget to read holiday stories to your child at bed time. Have your child write a "Sensational" Santa Story: "Santa's New Diet", or "Santa's Five Elves Demand Pay Raise".
23 Have students make ornaments and exchange them as peace offerings. Adopt a friend from another country and send messages of peace and good tidings.	24 Christmas eve. Christopher (Kit) Carson born. A great time to read aloud Clement Moore's 1823 classic, "The Night Before Christmas".	25 Christmas. There are customs in many lands: Our Christmas tree comes from Germany, Santa Clause from Holland, caroling from England, just to name a few.	26 National Whiner's Day. A day dedicated to whiners, especially those who return Christmas gifts and need lots of attention.	27 Louis Pasteur, the father of preventive medicine is born in 1822. He is considered one of the greatest scientists who ever lived. He proved the germ theory of disease.	28 Holy Innocents Day (Childermas), memorial of massacre of children in Bethlehem, ordered by King Herod. Ask your Sunday school teacher about this.	29 Texas admitted to the Union, 1845. Can your child name, spell and locate 10 cities in this state? Visit your library for books on the different states.
30 Rudyard Kipling, author, born in 1865. Do you know how the camel got it's hump? Check out stories by this writer from your library.	31 You and your child might make some new "School Year's Resolutions". Set goals, make lists of books to read and seek Excellence in Education in 2007.					