**Tip: Books make great gifts for all seasons.**

In Iceland, people celebrate Christmas with books. They even have a special word – *jolabokaflod,* meaning "Christmas Book Flood." The tradition is to give and receive new books. In some cases, families will give children one book each day during December, so on Christmas Eve, they have 24 books! And, not surprisingly, Iceland has a 99% literacy rate.

Giving books as gifts is a beautiful tradition. Sometimes books are even requested as baby shower gifts, or they are given as favors at birthday parties. Books are meaningful gifts that can last a lifetime. Here are some ideas on giving books as gifts.

* **Choose a classic book**. They are classic for a reason and meant to be read over and over. Choose something meaningful for you and your family, like a book you remember a grandparent or aunt or uncle reading.
* **Celebrate and support local authors.** Louisiana has many creative local authors who have written books. Find a picture book that features the environment, food, people, or a location. There are great books for children on gumbo, alligators, and pelicans. Or give books from another state, maybe one you plan to visit or have visited.
* **Give a biography or memoir.** Find a book on a person you admire or someone you find interesting. Books about people are available for all ages. Picture books biographies have illustrations that show the person and the period, and most include back matter with timelines and facts.
* **Give a book about history or a book set in a particular historical era.** Find a book about an interesting time in history. Maybe someone you know is interested in World War II. There are lots of books for children and adults about that period.
* **Celebrate birthdays with books that mark that person’s special day**. Give books written by or about a famous person who has the same birthday as the person you are celebrating. Or give a book about a special event in history that happened on the same day as the birthday.
* **Give a book that supports a hobby or a special interest**. Find a nonfiction book about the hobby or interest of the recipient, or give a novel that revolves around the character’s special interest or occupation.