

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Children's love affair with books

By the staff at Covered Treasures

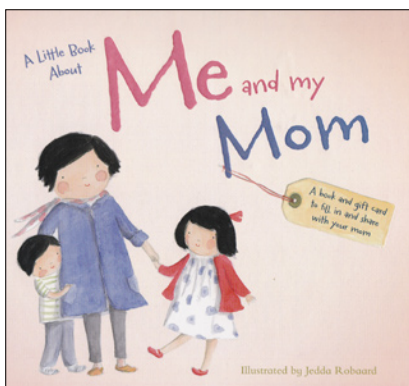
Even in this electronic age, nothing comes close to the joy of sharing a special picture book with a young child. We've selected a few delightful new ones to introduce to you.

A Little Book About Me and My Mom (... Me and My Dad)

By *Jedda Robbaard* (Barron's) \$7.99

This interactive book is a perfect gift for children to complete for Mother's Day. It even comes with a precious card that's blank inside ready for a special greeting.

There is a family tree to complete and sentence starters, such as "When Mom was little, her favorite pastime was..." and "Mom's favorite color is.... My favorite color is...." There is a similar book for dads to keep in mind for Father's Day in June. Both are accompanied by delightful color illustrations.



41 Uses for a Grandma (40 Uses for a Grandpa)

By *Harriet Ziefert* with drawings by *Amanda Haley* (Blue Apple Books) \$12.99

For the grandparents on your list, these delightful little books picture grandmas as e-pals, movie companions, and "someone to love you when others may not," among many other roles. Grandpas, for example, can be play dates, cash machines, or taxis.

A Book of Babies

By *Il Sung Na* (Random House) \$15.99

This beautiful book features animal babies, such as ducklings, fish, monkeys, and zebras. Information on how they are carried by their mommies or daddies, how they look, and what they can do when they're born is described in a simple style.

Have You Seen My Dragon?

By *Steve Light* (Candlewick Press) \$16.99

A small boy asks this question as he travels uptown and down, searching for his friend. Readers will certainly spot the glorious beast, plus an array of big-city icons. Is the dragon taking a bus, or breathing his fiery breath below a busy street? Maybe he took a taxi to the zoo, or is playing with the dogs in the park. Light's masterful pen-and-ink illustrations, decorated with splashes of color, elevate this counting book to new heights.

Scaredy Kate

By *Jacob Grant* (Barron's) \$7.99

This book is filled with many things that frighten Kate—a big, grumpy dog, a spooky elevator, and three-eyed, six-legged, big-eared monsters! But the illustrations are so cute, young children will be delighted with the monsters. When Kate learns that they like ice cream with sprinkles, the frightening things don't seem so scary to her after all.

Mama's Day with Little Gray

By *Aimee Reid* (Random House) \$16.99

Little Gray can't help wondering, what if he were the big elephant and Mama the small one? Would he shade her from the sun? Would he take as good care of her as she takes of him? This heartwarming picture book shows

a child's wish both to grow up and to stay close to his mother.

E-I-E-I-O: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm

By *Judy Sierra* (Candlewick Press) \$16.99

Once upon a time, Old MacDonald didn't have a farm. He just had a yard that he didn't want to mow. But then, under the direction of the wise Little Red Hen, Mac learns to look at the environment in a very different way, and whole new worlds start to bloom.

Preschool Time

By *Mij Kelly* (Barron's) \$14.99

When Suzy Sue's animal friends discover that she's gone away to preschool, they miss her and hatch a plan to sneak Suzy away and bring her back to the farm. But when they see how much fun preschool is, they may never want to leave themselves! This is a warm and funny story of a little girl going to school for the first time and those who miss her at home.

Love Is Real

By *Janet Lawler* (Harper Collins) \$15.99

"Love is the little things that fill my heart until it sings." So begins this charming story with its sweet celebration of unconditional love. Families of foxes, bunnies, and bears teach one another about the power of love from sunrise to sunset.

Why not bring a smile to the faces of the young children in your life by sharing some new picture books with them? Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be contacted at books@ocn.me.

HANG—High Altitude Natural Gardens

Garden group learns about protecting soil

By *Janet Sellers*

The Tri-Lakes Garden Community (TLGC) group held a potluck dessert for a screening of *Dirt—the Movie* on April 28 at the La Rosa restaurant in Palmer Lake. The movie highlights the importance of protecting our Earth's skin of soil and the persistent ease with which we can all make that happen. The group discussed ways to implement the ideas from the movie and swapped gardening success tips and garden goodies such as seeds and more.

The TLGC events are offered monthly or more all season for the community. Events include garden tours and informative talks as well as movies on gardening, harvesting, and fermenting foods. The events and demos are designed for adult participation, but the activities learned at TLGC are fun, family-friendly and simple to do at home or with your own club or group. An RSVP is

recommended.

Upcoming demos for May and June include a *ash mob* (group activity) workshop for Hugelkultur, an irrigation-free natural gardening method that's been used in Europe for hundreds of years. This method needs no tilling and little or no watering after the first year, and is catching on for many in arid areas

Basically, the Hugelkultur (literally "mound culture") method is: bury logs in a trench (or on top of the land for a raised bed), layer with green and brown vegetation and leaves, add compost and topsoil, then mulch with straw or plant fast-growing clovers to keep the soil in place until the garden plants grow. This method works for vegetable, tree, or flower seedlings or seeds, and works with newly cut wood as well as older, rotted wood. It is also thought that the method would allow for creating a

lush garden from the stumps, logs, and branches of our local fire mitigation efforts that involve cutting down many local trees and shrubs.

A few TLGC Hugelkultur *ash mob* demos are planned for mid-May, and details are currently available online at www.facebook.com/MonumentCommunityGarden or contact janetsellers@ocn.me for those details or to get on the email list for updates of events and information. A newsy Facebook page for the group will be up in mid-May, so stay tuned.

Janet Sellers is an American artist, teacher, and high-altitude green gardening enthusiast. Please send your gardening events, questions and handy tips to janetsellers@ocn.me.

Art Matters

Make your own art and memories



By *Janet Sellers*

It's not too early to plan your summer art fun. Think about taking a class from local artists, enjoying the local arts venues, and more. We have traditional art galleries and nontraditional venues as well as public art sculptures

throughout the area to round out the artful nature of our community.

Spring into an art fever and plan your summer for some art—it's a splendid time to take an art class. We seem to have more time and energy to take in all that creative goodness. This is true for both children and adults. The days are longer, and the light is wonderful here in the late afternoons and evenings. It's just perfect for picking up a pencil, sketchbook, or brush and learning to use them with skill and enjoyment.

We have a plethora of art-making venues available in our area. Whether you take some classes for fun, to get ready for your vacation journal, or to add art to your resume of abilities, it will surely be a welcome treat. Learning to actually make art puts in our mind a new and deeper way of seeing and experiencing the world and nature around us.

We see more and enjoy more of our daily life when we put some art classes in our week. And, for kids and adults alike, having some art skills up your sleeve comes in handy for things like memory skills, spatial skills, sports (yep—the spatial skills and fine motor skills from art transfer to better physicality), planning and design skills for work and pastime events, and more. Put art on your fun to-do list and reap the great life benefits!

Art Hop rides again

Thursday, May 15, starts off the annual Art Hop in Historic Monument, and the events run on the third Thursday of each month from May through September. The happy summer evenings have become a favorite in our community, as art lovers walk around town to see the newest artworks and chat with old and new friends. You can find the listing of participating merchants and

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