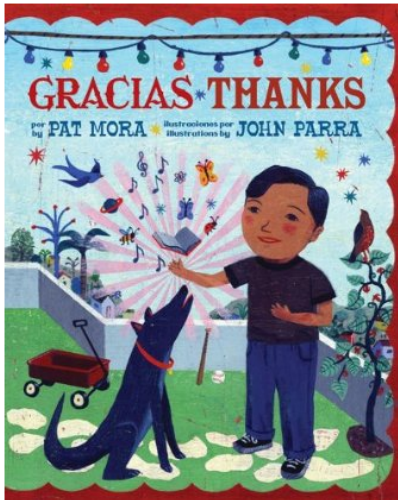


**Thanksgiving** books and ideas from **BookList Online**

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show\\_product&pid=37696](http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=37696)

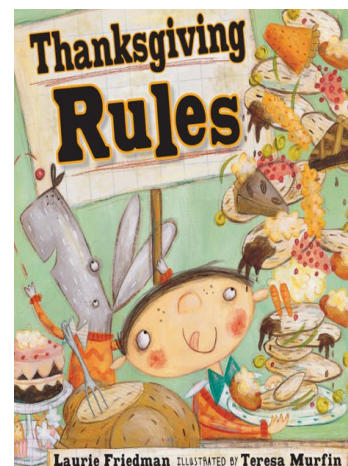


From the sun waking him up in the morning to a cricket chirping him to sleep at night, a young boy gives thanks for the many things and people who enrich his life. These blessings are remarkable for their childlike imagination and fresh imagery: “Por mis pijamas viejos, tan suaves que me siento como si me estuviera poniendo aire, gracias. / For my old pajamas, so soft they feel like I’m putting on air, thanks.” The bilingual format features Spanish on the left-hand page and English on the right, and the dedication and author’s note are also printed in both languages. The boy himself appears to be bicultural, with a fair-skinned, blond mother and a Latino father, and together with the boy’s siblings and extended family, they are warmly depicted dancing, fishing, working, and eating. Parra’s vivid acrylic illustrations have the feel of folk-art woodcuts and whimsically portray the details of the boy’s world, from his kite and books to his tennis shoes and ice cream. Books of thanks can run toward clichés, but the originality and liveliness of language and art in this one will inspire children to consider their own blessings.

— Linda Perkins

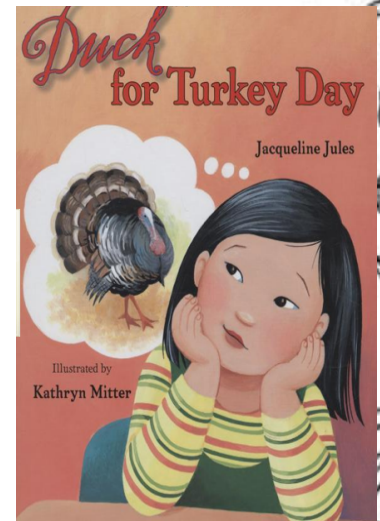
Forget a history lesson. Food is the focus in this wry take on Thanksgiving. In light verse and bright, silly cartoon illustrations, a boy with “P.I.G.” on his shirt introduces his rules for the holiday. He cannot wait for the main event to begin, the buffet, but first he has to “volunteer” to clean and help with preparations, and he has to greet all the relatives with their outstretched arms. All he thinks about, though, is eating, and at last, he fills his plate, which “can hold a lot of weight,” the second time around, too. The rhymes are forced at times, but kids will appreciate the silly instructions for enjoying the day, as well as the irreverent puns and mixed-media pictures, which continue right up until the final scene of the adult relatives, stuffed, dozing, and not at all eager for Percy’s special hugs.

— Hazel Rochman



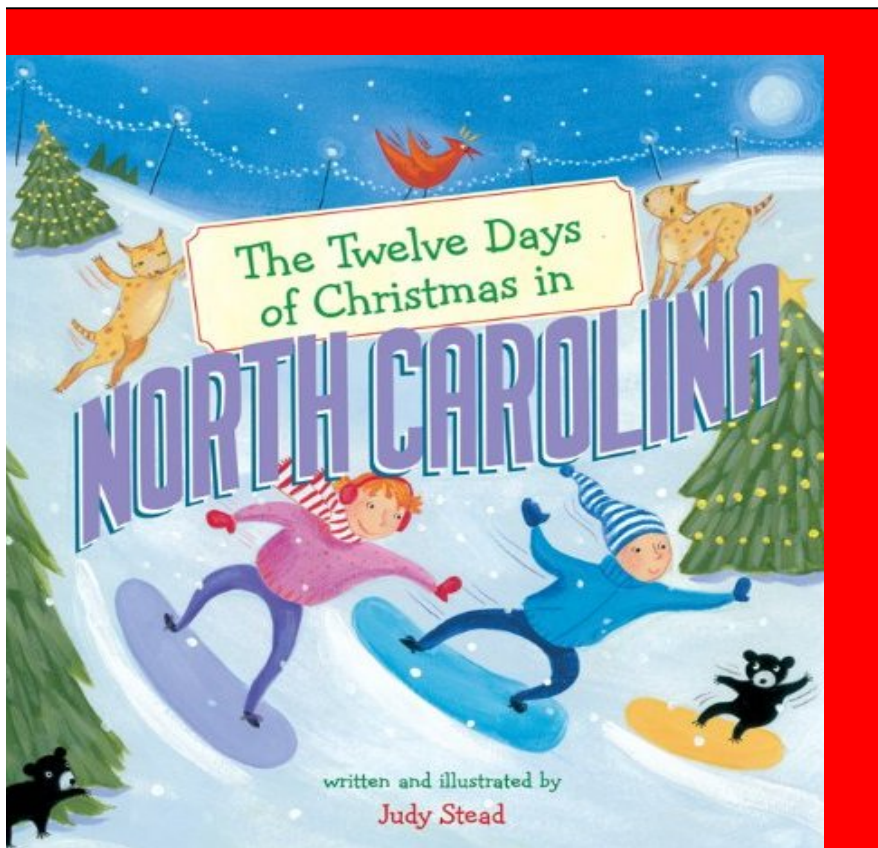
On the last day of school before Thanksgiving, Tuyet's teacher, Mrs. Cook, sends her students off with a wish to "have a great Turkey Day." At home, Tuyet learns that her Vietnamese American family is serving duck for Thanksgiving, and all during the joyful preparations, as relatives arrive and Tuyet helps with the shopping and plays with her cousins, she worries about what Mrs. Cook would say about a turkey-free Turkey Day. Back at school, Tuyet bravely shares her Thanksgiving story with her classmates and learns that the other kids enjoyed diverse menus, too, with meals of lamb, enchiladas, noodles, and even tofu. Mitter's acrylic illustrations, in clear bright colors and simple shapes, capture the warmth of the holiday bustle and the affection among family members, while reinforcing the meaning in Mrs. Cook's overt, reassuring message: "It doesn't matter what you eat on Thanksgiving, as long as you have a good time with family and friends." For more stories about cultural diversity and holiday traditions, pair this with Janet Wong's *Apple Pie Fourth of July* (2002).

— Gillian Engberg



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Sterling Publishing recently released six new titles in its state-themed 12 Days of Christmas picture-book series: *The Twelve Days of Christmas in California*, by Laura Rader; *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Texas*, by Janie Bynum; *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Minnesota*, by Constance Van Hoven; *The Twelve Days of Christmas in North Carolina*, by Judy Stead; *The Twelve Days of Christmas in New York City*, by Lisa Adams; and *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Virginia*, by Sue Corbett. Each title includes bright illustrations, maps, and a wealth of facts about each state.