



## Add Stories to your Family's Thanksgiving Traditions

By Judith Anderson,  
Longmont Library Director

Every family has its traditions around the holidays and some of them involve reading together or telling stories. Next month many families will come together to read [A Visit From St. Nicholas \(or The Night Before Christmas\)](#) on December 24 and others will share the story of Hanukkah.

How about a new "tradition"... reading a Thanksgiving story? The story could be funny or reverent or factual. In any case it can be a jumping off place to talk about Thanksgivings past...learning about the "true" first Thanksgiving dinner and how different it is today or what was it like on the farm when you knew the turkey personally or how my Italian family celebrated every holiday with an Italian feast... no turkey or pumpkin pie, bring on the ravioli and cannoli!!!

If you would like to find a new favorite Thanksgiving story, the librarians at the Longmont Library recommend:

### For children...

[Run Turkey, Run](#) by Diane Mayr (ages 4-8). With Thanksgiving only one day away, can Turkey find a place to hide from the farmer who's looking for a plump bird for his family feast? Maybe he can hide with the pigs... or the ducks... or the horses... Uh-oh! Here comes the farmer! Run, Turkey, run!

[Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving](#) by Dav Pilkey (ages 4-8). Patterned as a parody of the celebrated [A Visit from St. Nicholas](#), this story of eight baby turkeys unfolds with joyous abandon, as eight children embark on a Thanksgiving field trip that will change their lives forever. They are breathless as they catch sight of Farmer Mack Nuggett for the first time: "He was dressed all in denim, / From his head to his toe, / With a pinch of polyester / And a dash of Velcro."

[Thanksgiving on Thursday](#) (Magic Tree House #27) by Mary Pope Osborne (ages 9-12). The Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie back to the eve of the first Thanksgiving. There they meet the Pilgrims as well as Squanto, a Native American who

helped them. The story offers an age-appropriate, in-depth picture of what life was really like for early settlers, as well as the usual Magic Tree House adventure and excitement.

[Squanto's Journey: the Story of the First Thanksgiving](#) by Joseph Bruchac (ages 6-10). Most American children know the story of the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving, but the Native American side of the tale is far less familiar. Joseph Bruchac, a prolific and award-winning author of Native American descent describes life in 1620 for a man who was destined to save the Pilgrims even as he was losing his family and tribe. Throughout this moving tale, Squanto's belief that "these men can share our land as friends" poignantly shines through.

### For adults...

[A Great and Godly Adventure: The Pilgrims and the Myth of the First Thanksgiving](#) (Non-fiction) by Godfrey Hodgson. This book is not so much about giving thanks, as it is about the true account of the first feast as it was really experienced by the Pilgrims -- at the first feast, there were no turkeys, cranberries, or pies. Hodgson tells of the tough first years in the settlement, the complex relationship between the colonists and the Native Americans, and, finally, the evolution of the Thanksgiving holiday over the centuries. The text is at times gripping and at other times plodding. Hodgson certainly has solid research and factual background.



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### Upcoming Learning Opportunities

**Frida Kahlo Photo Exhibit**  
Longmont Museum  
November 13—January 2  
[www.ci.longmont.co.us/museum](http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/museum)  
(303) 651-8374

**"Life in and Out of the Alley...  
the Impact of Relationships"**  
Longmont Senior Center  
November 17th  
[www.lhotonline.org/event2010.html](http://www.lhotonline.org/event2010.html)  
(303) 709-5404

**Nature Hike for Seniors**  
Rabbit Mountain Open Space  
Thursday, November 18  
303-678-6214

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### We're Interested in Hearing From You

Let us know how you're able to spread positive lifelong learning information in your community. As a way to inspire your fellow Learning Ambassadors, we'll include results and your good ideas in upcoming issues! Send your experience and results to Karen Roney at [karen.roney@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:karen.roney@ci.longmont.co.us), or call 303-651-8633.

## Creating Family History Opportunities During the Holidays

Holidays can be a time when families get together. Why not take advantage of this opportunity to gather some family history?

*How To Interview a Relative*  
By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

Getting people to share their stories isn't always easy. Follow these step-by-step ideas for a successful family history interview!

Here's How:

1. Schedule a time in advance. This gives everyone a chance to prepare.
2. Prepare a list of questions beforehand and either share them with your relative, or give them an idea of what you want to cover.
3. Bring several notepads and pens to the interview. If you plan to make a recording, be sure to have a tape player, microphone, extra tapes and batteries.
4. Take good notes and make sure you record your name, the date, the place the interview is being conducted and the interviewee.
5. Start with a question or topic that you know will elicit a reply, such as a story you have heard her tell in the past.
6. Ask questions which encourage more than simple 'yes' or 'no' answers. Try to elicit facts, feelings, stories and descriptions.
7. Show interest. Take an active part in the dialogue without dominating it. Learn to be a creative listener.
8. Use props whenever possible. Old photographs, favorite old songs and treasured items may bring memories flooding back.
9. Don't push for answers. Your relative may not wish to speak ill of the dead or may have other reasons for not

wanting to share. Move on to something else.

10. Use your prepared questions as a guideline, but don't be afraid to let your relative go off on a tangent. They may have many things to say that you never thought to ask!
11. Don't interrupt or attempt to correct your relative; this can end an interview in a hurry!
12. When you are done, be sure to thank your relative for her time.

Tips:

1. Put your relative at ease by telling them that they will have a chance to see and approve of anything that you write before you share it with others.
2. Keep the interview length to no more than 1-2 hours at a stretch. It's tiring for you and for the person being interviewed. This is supposed to be fun!
3. Consider preparing a transcript or written report as a tangible thank you to your relative for her participation.

### Family history interview questions

1. What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?
2. When and where were you born?
3. How did your family come to live there?
4. Were there other family members in the area? Who?
5. What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?
6. Were there any special items in the house that you remember?
7. What is your earliest childhood memory?

8. Describe the personalities of your family members.
9. What kind of games did you play growing up?
10. What was your favorite toy and why?
11. What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?
12. Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favorite?
13. Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?
14. What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? High school? College?
15. What school activities and sports did you participate in?

For more interview questions, and/or ideas on how to gather your family history, you can visit

[www.genealogy.about.com/](http://www.genealogy.about.com/).



## Thanksgiving Games for Kids and Their Families

*Excerpts from amazingmoms.com*

Each year the Thanksgiving holiday provides a perfect opportunity for your family to create a new and long lasting tradition. Of course there is the standard turkey dinner, football game and possibly a nap to enjoy.

But what about shaking things up this year by including a family game or two to your festivities? We've provided a list of easy to learn, Thanksgiving games and instructions that kids and adults can enjoy!

### Popcorn Relay Race

This game can be a bit messy, but it's well worth it to see relatives young and old playing together! Set bowls filled with popcorn at one side of a room and then empty bowls at the opposite side. Teams must transport the popcorn from the full bowl, to the empty, using a measuring cup. The first team to empty their popcorn bowl, wins the the game!  
Note: popcorn is a choking hazard for children under three!

### "Thankerchief"

Arrange the children/players in a circle. Pass a "thankerchief" (handkerchief) around the circle, as everyone recites this poem:

Thankerchief, thankerchief, around you go  
Where you'll stop, nobody knows.  
But when you do, someone must say,  
What they are thankful for this day.

The player holding the "thankerchief" when the poem ends, must say aloud, one thing for which they are thankful. This continues until everyone has had their turn.

### Hoop Sticks

A traditional Native American game that can be enjoyed by kids and adults alike.

#### You'll Need:

A 12" wooden dowel or stick for each player.  
Yarn, string or twine, ~ 18" per stick.

Tie the yarn to the end of the stick. Make a "hoop" at the other end. The object of the game is to catch the "hoop" with the end of your stick using only one hand! It's not as easy as it sounds.

#### More Tips:

1. Wrap the hoop in masking tape for younger children; the firmer hoop will give them a boost.
2. Decorate your sticks with Native American symbols and beads.
3. Divide into teams. Use a kitchen timer-- The team with the most "hoops" within the time limit wins!

### Turkey Hunt!

Hunt quietly, you don't want to scare the turkeys...  
Prepare for the game by drawing or pasting turkey pictures on a dozen or so index cards - stickers will work as well.

To play, everyone leaves the room except the leader. The leader hides the cards around the room. Hunters return and begin the hunt. As each turkey is found, it is brought back to the leader who corrals them in a separate pile for each hunter. When all the turkeys have been found, the hunter with the most turkeys is the winner and becomes the leader for the



next round.

#### Tip:

Let your children make the cards before the Holiday. They'll find lots of magazine pictures and can color some as well!

### Pumpkin Race

A Traditional county fair game that can be played in a yard, garage or even inside!  
This is a simple race but since pumpkins are not nice smooth balls and refuse to roll in nice straight lines, you will need plenty of room!

You need two large pumpkins and two sturdy sticks. The racers, line up on the starting line with the pumpkins turned on their sides. On the signal, the racers use their sticks to roll the pumpkins to the finish line. Younger players may want to use their hands instead of the stick. If you want to play this as teams, make it a relay race.

For even more ideas you can visit [www.amazingmoms.com/html/thanksgiving\\_games.htm](http://www.amazingmoms.com/html/thanksgiving_games.htm).



# Boredom Busters

*By Stephanie Ohlsen, Discovery Days Instructor, Longmont Museum*

Welcome to Boredom Busters! This monthly column will present activities and recipes for kids of all ages, using ingredients you probably have at home or that are easy to obtain. Great for those days they can't find anything to do, or you don't like what they did find!

## Squeeze Art

Have you ever seen a young child with a bottle of glue? They turn it upside down and squeeze, making a huge puddle when a small dot would do. It's just fun to

squeeze the glue and watch it drizzle out and make a bigger and bigger puddle. This project is for those kids. Older kids will enjoy it just as much or more as they discover the paint's unique properties.

## Squeeze Art Paint Recipe

### Materials:

Empty squeeze bottles (catsup, shampoo, etc.), paper plates, meat trays or cardboard

**Ingredients:** ½ cup flour, ½ cup salt, ½ cup water, (may be doubled for more kids), food coloring or tempera paint  
**Mixing directions:** Mix flour, salt and water until it forms a paste. (Use a mixer or blender as lumps will clog the squeeze bottle.) Divide the paste into 3 or 4 squeeze bottles. Add a different food coloring or paint to each bottle until the desired colors are achieved.

**How to use:** Your paper plate, meat tray or cardboard is your "canvas." Choose a color to begin with, and squeeze the paint in lines and swirls and polka dots all over our canvas, though not too close to the edge. Repeat the process with other colors until the desired finished product is complete, though this activity is more about the process and less about the finished product. Older kids will appreciate that this paint doesn't mix when two colors meet.

Be prepared with additional "canvas"; most kids want to do more than one!

This project can take a while to dry depending on how thick the paint is, and it can be difficult to move if the paint is too thick. The paint dries sparkly due to the salt crystals.

## Give the gift of reading

*By Judith Anderson, Longmont Library Director*

It is time to start thinking about the holiday gift giving season. Let's be right up front with this... I believe in the perfect gift. I believe that it is truly the thought that counts. I believe there is a book for every one and every taste and every situation. I am a librarian!

If you would like some help finding the perfect gift book, the Friends of the Longmont Library can help. The Friends have purchased a subscription to BookPage magazine. BookPage covers

the best in new books each month in all categories including fiction, non-fiction, business, children's and audio. Find author interviews, features, illustrator interviews and more in each issue. Both the November and December issues include a "gift ideas" and "holiday catalog" section.

Just before the 1st of each month, 1000 copies of BookPage arrive at the Longmont Library. BookPage is free. Take home your very own copy and take your time finding the perfect, thoughtfully selected, gift book for everyone on your list.



## About LifeLongmontLearning

LifeLongmontLearning is a community-based, City-sponsored movement to increase access to learning opportunities available in our area. It is the vision of this effort's leadership—which represents government, education, community and business—to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn; for all students to acquire the education and skills to be successful in the 21st century; for all working adults to improve their employability in a changing world; and for retired adults to continually enrich their lives. For more information, visit [www.LifeLongmontLearning.com](http://www.LifeLongmontLearning.com).