Nana’s Literary Corner- Recommendations #6

Last week when Ryder began bringing books to me and asking me to “use my own words” for the pictures in the book, because he wanted some new stories, I knew it was time for a trip to the library! As we entered the El Dorado Hills branch, Ryder, as always, walked over to the bronze life-size statue of Mark Twain sitting on a bench and greeted him before entering one of his favorite rooms on earth- the juvenile section of the library. After an hour of looking at, reading, choosing and discarding a number of books, we left with a hefty armload. The first three books below are my favorites from the library plus two from my own collection:

1. **The Crippled Lamb**  Written by Max Lucado and embellished by Liz Bonham’s beautiful pastel paintings. This story of a crippled lamb brings home the message that “God has a special place for those who feel left out.” Ultimately, the special place for the little lamb is snuggling up to the baby Jesus to keep him warm…but how he gets there is the story… a nice one for Christmas or anytime.

2. **Milo and the Magical Stones**  Written and sweetly illustrated by Marcus Pfister. This reflective tale of Milo, the mouse, and his discovery of a special golden stone has two very different endings- and your child can choose which one (or both!) to read…the happy ending or the sad ending. The choices the mice make definitely provide food for thought- even for a young one…but, just let the images and story live- don’t dissect it intellectually with a 4 year old!

3. **The Paper Dragon**  Written by Marguerite W. Davol with extraordinary fold-out illustrations by Robert Sabuda. This book about how the humble artist, Mi Fei, saves his land and people from the great dragon of Lung Mountain is truly stunning. The story is reminiscent of an archetypal fairy tale, where the hero has to pass 3 impossible tests. But, instead of being aided by a magic gnome, etc. Mi Fei finds the answers in the paintings that he has made of the stories of his people. I love the fact that the “hero” is a humble artist… This is one I’m getting for my own library! (4-6 year olds would enjoy this)

4. **Max’s Dragon**  Written by Kate Banks and cleverly illustrated by Boris Kulikov. A sweet adventure story about 3 young boys and how they
used rhyming words to vanquish a dinosaur and save a dragon. “My
dragon’s sneeze makes quite a breeze.”

5. **Paddington Bear in the Garden**  Written by Michael Bond and
illustrated by R.W. Allen. This little story is one of many Paddington
adventures; I liked it because it has to do with creative gardening-
the kind children should be encouraged to do. Ryder enjoyed the story
at age 3, but I think it would be enjoyable for children up to age 5 and
might even inspire some creative gardening in your own back yard-
perhaps a good one for Springtime.

*Good reading!*
Janet “Nana” Langley