

**BOOKS MAKE THE BEST PRESENTS**  
**BECAUSE YOU CAN OPEN THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN**

Kids love books that have a gimmick--pop up books, scratch and sniffs, books with stickers or things to toss in the air. Many times, a child is drawn into reading first by these added elements. Since the most important thing is to get kids reading, it can never be said too often: children are led to reading by all manner of enticements.

One series that girls of all ages love, and which I highly recommend for sevens, as well as older girls who are "reading resistant" is The Magic Charm Books written, illustrated and designed by Elizabeth Koda-Callan (Workman Publishing, \$12.95 each). This series has been highly lusted after since the appearance of the very first title, The Magic Locket several years back.

The enduring allure of the series I think is that the main character is not named and is always referred to as "the girl" or "the little girl", and there is a real necklace with a real charm of some sort on it that is included in the frontispiece of the book.

The newest in this delightful series is about a girl who loves to read, goes to camp, doesn't fit in, but finds her place as "the storyteller" who reads aloud as well as the other kids do sports, and is rewarded at the end of camp by the gift of a necklace with a little gold locket shaped like a book. Of course, a locket identical to that one is appended to the front of the book! In the other Magic Charm Series titles, girls overcome self-deprecating or self-

defeating behaviors and are rewarded with a necklace with a charm on it.

So far in this series you'll find (in addition to the aforementioned Magic Locket ), The Silver Slippers , The Good Luck Pony, The Tiny Angel, The Shiny Skates, The Cat Next Door, Two Best Friends and The Queen of Hearts, and The Storyteller. If you've got a favorite girl age seven to thirteen, be sure to send her one or more of these charming books for a birthday present. It may be just the perfect enticement that unlocks the magic of books for her.

©2005 Gwynne Spencer, PO BOX 121, Mancos CO 81328

[gwynnespencer@aol.com](mailto:gwynnespencer@aol.com)