

Rebecca Petruck
2012 Metts Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 762-0515
rebecca_petruck@yahoo.com

FISHING FOR PRESENTS SYNOPSIS

Of *course* Madden doesn't like Christmas. He's nine-and-a-half years old and too young to work, doesn't live in a state that pays five cents for cans, and got in trouble when he sat outside the grocery store with an empty cup and a sign, "Will work for food." But he's too old to give gifts he makes in school with Popsicle sticks and papier-mâché. He wants to give *real* presents, with price tags, that smell new and are professionally gift wrapped in a store.

Such is the dilemma facing our hero in FISHING FOR PRESENTS, *or It's Not the Gift That Counts*. This is not a story about the 'true' meaning of Christmas but a cautionary tale from someone who has been there, young Madden himself.

He needs three perfect gifts. His mom and teenaged sister spend hours and days shopping, and even his dad plans a few surprises. Madden has pocket lint and torn out catalog pages of two brightly colored scarves and a fishing pole.

Madden catches a break when his grandmother offers to teach him to knit, though knitting is such a girly thing to do. That leaves his dad's fishing pole. Madden searches under sofa cushions, skips pizza lunch Fridays, panhandles, and applies for a credit card. On the last shopping day before Christmas, Madden is still short on cash.

He steals the fishing pole.

Unsuccessfully. Madden quickly learns, with some personal injury, that fishing poles are incredibly difficult to sneak out of a store with no one noticing. He also learns

that good intentions do not trump the law. And he is grounded for a very, Very, VERY long time.

FISHING FOR PRESENTS is a middle grade chapter book geared toward boys. The book is approximately 100-150 pages.