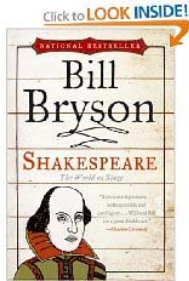


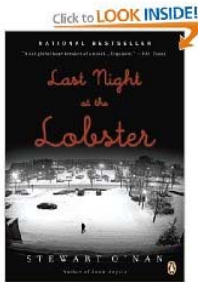
[Martha Bayley's list of new trade paperbacks that would make great holiday gifts:](#)

For Anglophiles and those who enjoy reading biographies



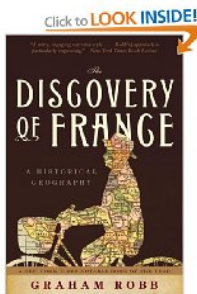
Shakespeare: the World as Stage, by Bill Bryson (ISBN 0061673692). Bryson manages to weave arcane facts into an enjoyable biography of Shakespeare, even though this subject is at once overexposed and still elusive. He also reads the audio book, if you prefer to listen to this charming author.

For fiction lovers looking for a dose of reality:



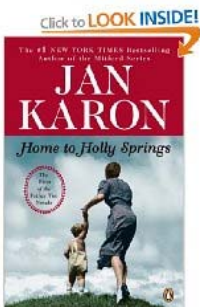
Last Night at the Lobster: A Novel by Stewart O'Nan. (ISBN 0143114425). On the day the restaurant he manages is closing, Manny Deleon, a conscientious, committed boss tries to go out in style. However, no one shares his vision, as staff and even customers have a hard time showing up. Humorous, and poignant – a slice of what people are going through as they lose their jobs during troubled times.

For Francophiles and armchair travelers:



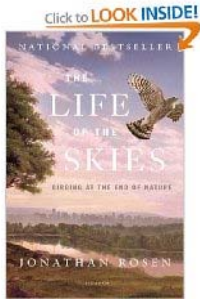
The Discovery of France: A Historical Geography from the Revolution to the First World War, by Graham Robb (ISBN 0393333647). Robb's humorous picture of the creation of the French "nation" will please and amaze. He also managed to travel 14,000 miles on his bicycle through rural France while researching this historical geography.

A good book for Grandma:



Home to Holly Springs, by Jan Karon (ISBN 0143114395). Father Tim, who readers were first introduced to in the Mitford novels, returns to his hometown of Holly Springs, Mississippi after receiving a cryptic letter from an unknown source. Fans of Karon's quirky characters will not be disappointed.

For nature lovers:



Life of the Skies: Birding at the End of Nature, by Jonathan Rosen (ISBN 0312428197). Rosen's meditation on our attempts to save wildlife at the same time as we are destroying it will tug at the heartstrings of every backyard bird watcher. Professor Steven Pinker says, "You'll never see a waxwing in the same way again". (***This will be released on 12/23 – you can pre-order a copy at Eagle Harbor Books***).