

**ANDY ANDREWS' CLASSIC HOLIDAY ESSAY  
*Socks for Christmas* THE IDEAL STOCKING-STUFFER;  
RUTLEDGE HILL PRESS KEEPSAKE HARDCOVER  
COLLECTIBLE EDITION INCLUDES BONUS CD OF ANDY  
READING THE COMPLETE ESSAY;  
BOOK WILL BE IN STORES OCTOBER 2005**

**By PHIL SWEETLAND  
Contributor-The New York Times**

**NASHVILLE – Short and sweet. Add the word “meaningful” to that pair, and you begin to get a feel for bestselling author Andy Andrews’ Christmas 2005 gift to folks of all faiths.**

***Socks for Christmas* is a secular parable, a real-life holiday story for children and children of all ages which can easily be read or read aloud to children in one brief sitting.**

**Yet in those few pages we sense the magic and the mastery of Andrews, the Alabamian and modern-day Will Rogers who has spoken in front of four U.S. Presidents and is in fact very quietly becoming one of the most influential people in America. From a booksellers’ standpoint, not only will the gorgeously-designed *Socks for Christmas* be in stores in October, but in early December, just in time for the last-minute shoppers, Andy will be featured in a nationally broadcast PBS special of one of his classic “storytelling talks”.**

**In *Socks*, Andy magically takes us back to the holiday seasons of his childhood, specifically 1968, when he was 7. He depicts Christmas Eve**

**this way: “As a boy, there was one night every year that lasted longer than any other - - one night when clocks actually slowed down,”**

**He recalls the wonder of Christmas morning that year, and his initial disappointment at not receiving the toys he had put on Santa’s list, the electric football game, and the BB gun, and his frustration at receiving instead the usual sweaters and blue jeans and, from Aunt Ruth, socks!**

**“Who wants socks?” young Andy thought to himself. “I had a drawer full of socks. I was not pleased!” That afternoon, like kids all over the world, he wandered around the neighborhood comparing his holiday haul with those of his pals. Danny Foster, the rich kid, had gotten all the latest board games and even a mini-bike, the kind with the 4-hp motor.**

**On the way home from Danny’s place, young Andy encountered Timmy and Barbara Johnson, who unlike Danny came from a poor family.**

**They were tossing a tennis ball. He asked them what they’d gotten that morning, and they showed him the sturdy but unglamorous pairs of black leather shoes both were wearing. Andy recalled an earlier day when Timmy came to school barefoot, and had disappeared from school for the entire next week. But he looked at the shoes and said to Timmy and Barbara, “you’re supposed to wear socks with those shoes.”**

**To Andy’s surprise, this offhand remark caused Timmy to burst into tears and run for the house, while Barbara called Andy a name and followed her brother into the modest house.**

**Confused, Andy returned to his own home and explained the incident to his Mom and Dad. His parents explained this grown-up situation to their 7-year-old boy, and the message of that afternoon has remained with Andy ever since.**

**“I now remember that day as an awakening,” Andrews writes.**

**Now millions of readers will get a chance to share this wonderful, true story with their own children and loved ones, thanks to the Rutledge Hill keepsake edition of Andy Andrews’ *Socks for Christmas*, a book destined to become an instant holiday classic.**

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Contact: ROBERT D. SMITH, [Robert@AndyAndrews.com](mailto:Robert@AndyAndrews.com)

Telephone: 615 405 8084

Fax: 877 331 8831

Media Web site for Andy Andrews: [www.Press.AndyAndrews.com](http://www.Press.AndyAndrews.com)