

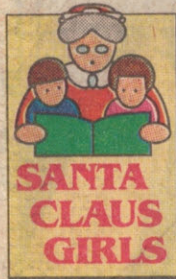
# Books, food combine for a good time

► "Morsels for the Mind" serves up dishes in coordination to the monthly reading.

By Charley Moore  
The Grand Rapids Press

The Santa Claus Girls have just received a shopping bag full of three dozen children's books from some women who treasure the gifts of literature and good food - together.

The 15 women call themselves "Morsels for the Mind," and their monthly gatherings are devoted to discussion of a book they've all read and a dish related to it.



"We read 'Bridges of Madison County,' and the hostess served bridge mix," member Anne Hill said.

"One book was set in England, and we had English trifle for that meeting. Another member is from Australia and served Australian food.

Or the snack could be something a character in the book ate. One character was locked in an office overnight with only raisins to eat, and we had raisins plus other snack food."

For another book, set in the South, the hostess served the same dinner as in the book: fried chicken and biscuits, Hill said.

"You'd poke a hole in the biscuit with your thumb, then pour in molasses, so we all did that."

Members choose a wide variety of books

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## SANTA

*Group has donated to  
Girls for last three years*

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each February to be read in the next year.

"Most of us are teachers, speech therapists, psychologists and counselors, connected with schools," Hill said.

"We all love reading, and one asked, 'Why not share our love of reading with children?' So we decided to donate to the Santa Claus Girls and to our nieces and nephews."

The women bought children's titles such as "The Secret Garden," "The Christmas Trolls," "Love You Forever" and "Six Crows." Established four years ago, the group has donated to the Santa Claus Girls for three years.

"We're all working women and it's hard to find time to read, so being a member helps us to put a priority on reading and to read books we might not otherwise choose," Hill said.

The Santa Claus Girls, established in 1908 to provide gifts to needy children, will accept donations of new toys and clothing for children ages six months to 12 years. Delivery day, coordinated by the Y's Men's Club, is Dec. 16. Call 776-1140 to volunteer or for more information. This year's goal is \$135,000.

Cash donations will be accepted throughout the holiday season. Mail them to The Santa Claus Girls, c/o The Grand Rapids Press, 155 Michigan St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Names of the contributors will be printed in The Press, so donors should include clear spellings of names or groups.