

THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS

The **Sydney Taylor Book Award** was established in honor of the author of the classic *All of a Kind Family* series by her husband, Ralph Taylor, to encourage the publication of outstanding books of positive Jewish content for children. The seal of the Association is awarded annually to the authors of the most distinguished contributions to Jewish children's literature published in the preceding year. The first **Sydney Taylor Book Award** was given in 1968. In most years since then, two awards have been given, one for younger readers and one for older readers. Beginning in 2007, books for teens are recognized. Honor books are also cited. **Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Awards** have been granted periodically since 1971.

Notable Books of Jewish Content for Children & Teens is published annually by the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. The bibliographies from 1999-2010 are available for viewing and downloading from www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org. A compilation of all bibliographies from 1985-2000 is available for purchase from www.jewishlibraries.org (Click on "Publications").

Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners

2010

Wayland, April Halprin. *New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story*. Illustrations by Stéphane Jorisch. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2009. ISBN: 978-080373279-7.

The author employs her own memories of community *tashlich* at the beach in this loving, charmingly illustrated description of Izzy and his family and friends as they gently apologize for misdeeds, grant forgiveness, and toss breadcrumbs into the sea as part of their Rosh Hashanah observance. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Friedman, Robin. *The Importance of Wings*. Watertown, Massachusetts: Charlesbridge Publishing, 2009. ISBN: 978-158-89330-5.

The title of this coming-of-age novel refers to both the layered hairstyle Roxanne wants but cannot achieve with her straight locks, and what happens when an Israeli teen who wants to be more American discovers her inner beauty and self confidence with the help of a friend. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Engle, Margarita. *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*. New York: Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2009. ISBN: 978-080508936-3.

Newbery Honor Winner Engle continues to illuminate the lesser known history of Cuba: the challenge of German refugees seeking a new home there after Kristallnacht. Free verse in the voices of a German boy, a Cuban girl, and a Russian immigrant paint different perspectives of a complicated political and historical era. (Award Winner for Teen Readers)

Cohen, Deborah Bodin. *Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim: A Passover Story*. Illustrated by Jago. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, 2009. ISBN: 978-082258765-1.

Nachshon is not afraid of anything, except swimming. As the Jews leave Egypt, he realizes that in order to reach freedom he must face his fears and step into the water of the Red Sea. Imaginative artwork complements this story based on the *Midrash*. (Honor Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Jules, Jacqueline. *Benjamin and the Silver Goblet*. Illustrations by Natascia Ugliano. Minneapolis: Karben, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, 2009. ISBN: 978-082258758-3.

Benjamin, the youngest of Jacob's sons, must accompany his brothers to Egypt and meet the governor (Joseph). This young boy's perspective of events remains true to the biblical narration while making it accessible to younger readers. (Honor Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Weber, Elka. *Yankee at the Seder*. Illustrations by Adam Gustavson. Berkeley, California: Tricycle Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-58246-256-1.

Based on a true tale, this beautifully illustrated story recounts the participation of a "Yankee Jew," Myer Levy, as a guest at a Virginia Passover Seder shortly after the end of the Civil War. Ten-year-old Jacob sees the words of the *Haggadah* ring true, as all who are hungry are welcome at the table. (Honor Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Winter, Jonah. *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?* Illustrations by André Carrilho. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2009. ISBN: 978-0375837388.

Koufax's rise from a Jewish boy in Brooklyn to one of the all-time greats of baseball as a Los Angeles Dodger is told in conversational style by an imagined teammate. A lenticular cover and magnificent artwork brings the left-hander's style to life. (Honor Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Metselaar, Menno and Ruud van der Rol. *Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures from the Archives of the Anne Frank House*. Translated by Arnold J. Pomerans. New York: Roaring Brook Press/Flash Point, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2009. ISBN: 978-1596435469.

Archival photographs of Anne and her family, her actual writing and diary, and the annex are powerful and instrumental in bringing her life into context. The text details world events as well as Anne's life. (Honor Award Winner for Older Readers)

Thor, Annika. *A Faraway Island*. Translated by Linda Schenck. New York: Delacorte Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2009. ISBN: 978-0385736176.

Stephie and Ellie Steiner are sent from Vienna to Sweden to escape the Nazi threat, and must adjust to life on a small island off the mainland. Stephie comes of age as she meets the challenge of a new culture, a strict foster mother, and the worries about family in Austria. (Honor Award Winner for Older Readers)

Davies, Jacqueline. *Lost. Tarrytown, New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2009. ISBN: 978-0761455356.*

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire provides the backdrop for this historical novel about friendship and loss. (Honor Award Winner for Teen Readers)

Silverberg, Selma Kritzer. *Naomi's Song*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2009. ISBN: 978-0827608863.

Following the biblical Book of Ruth, *Naomi's Song* imagines the life experiences of Naomi, taking her from girlhood when she is orphaned to when Ruth marries and gives birth to Naomi's grandson. (Honor Award Winner for Teen Readers)

2009

Michelson, Richard. *As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*. Illustrations by Raul Colon. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780375833359.

This fictionalized parallel biography of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, presents a beautiful and inspiring tribute to a little known alliance in American history. Colon's stunning illustrations with subtle coloring bring the text, and the message of persistence, justice, and brotherhood, to life. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Hesse, Karen. *Brooklyn Bridge*. New York: Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan, 2008. ISBN: 9780312378868.

While his family left the anti-Semitism of Russia to build the American dream, Joey Michtom's dream is to visit the glittering Coney Island. Crafting a story from the spark of a true event, the invention of the Teddy Bear in 1903, Hesse masterfully weaves multiple themes of hard-work, survival, homelessness, and familial dedication. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Zenatti, Valerie. *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008. ISBN: 9781599902005.

This honest yet hopeful story about the relationship between an Israeli girl and a Palestinian boy via e-mail and instant messaging conveys the confusion, anger, exhaustion, and depression felt by many young people during the 2003 Intifada. (Award Winner for Teen Readers)

Cohen, Deborah Bodin. *Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride*. Illustrations by Shahar Kober. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner, 2008. ISBN: 9780822586487.

Ari is selected to engineer the first train between Jaffa and Jerusalem. Filled with pride, he boasts to his friends and neglects to say good-bye before he sets off. As the train stops to collect the necessary items to celebrate the Jewish New Year, Ari is reminded of the true meaning of the holiday. Charming, colorful illustrations give the reader a sense of what Israel's countryside might have looked like in 1892. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Jules, Jacqueline. *Sarah Laughs*. Illustrations by Natascia Ugliano. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner, 2008. ISBN: 9780822599340.

The story of Sarah, the biblical matriarch, is told beginning with her childhood in Ur and continuing through her marriage to Abraham, their journey to Canaan, and the eventual birth of Isaac. Vibrant illustrations show her sweet, generous and loving personality, as well as the starry nights and windswept deserts on the way to Canaan. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Michelson, Richard. *A is for Abraham: A Jewish Family Alphabet*. Illustrations by Ron Mazellan. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, an imprint of Gale, 2008. ISBN: 9781585363223.

From A for Abraham to Z for Zayde, this alphabet book, illustrated by fluid, realistic paintings, provides a wealth of information about Jewish culture, history, personalities, holidays, customs, and ceremonies. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Yolen, Jane. *Naming Liberty*. Paintings by Jim Burke. New York: Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin, 2008. ISBN: 9780399242502.

Parallel stories tell the arrival of two young ladies to the United States - Gitl, the daughter of a Russian family, who decide to emigrate to avoid the pogroms and persecution of Czarist Russia and the Statue of Liberty, conceived and developed by the young French artist Frederic Auguste Bartholdi as a commemoration for America's centennial birthday. Illustrations in counterpart oil paint panels reflect the 19th century Eastern European village against the more modern cities of Paris and New York. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Siegal, Aranka. *Memories of Babi*. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2008. ISBN: 9780374399788.

Eight short episodic stories reflect the author's childhood in a small village in Hungary and incorporate Jewish values of kindness, generosity, honesty, help for the less fortunate, and special moments filled with a little adventure, amusing escapades, and lots of love. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Levine, Anna. *Freefall*. New York: Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2008. ISBN: 9780061576546.

Aggie Jacobs, a typical eighteen-year-old Israeli girl, decides to try out for an elite female combat unit in the Israeli army. Realistic dialogue and a first person narrative provide a genuine look at the realities of Israeli military life through the eyes of a young woman. (Honor Award for Teen Readers)

2008

Gershman, Sarah. *The Bedtime Sh'ma*. Illustrated by Kristina Swarner. Oakland, CA: EKS Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 0939144557.

With accessible language, this book helps young children understand the meaning and concepts of the Sh'ma prayers. A CD is included creating a soft sound for falling asleep or learning the Hebrew of the nighttime prayers. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Fleischman, Sid. *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*. New York: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2007. ISBN: 0061344451.

When the spirit of a 12-year old Jewish boy, murdered by the Nazis, possesses the body of an American GI traveling through Europe as a second-rate ventriloquist, the pair is able to unmask the Nazi responsible. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Levitin, Sonia. *Strange Relations*. New York: Knopf/Random House Children's Books, 2007. ISBN: 0375837515.

Fifteen-year-old Marne decides to spend the summer with her Aunt Carole in Hawaii. But, Aunt Carole is now Aunt Chaya, married to a Chabad Rabbi with seven children. What Marne anticipates will be a relaxing summer of jogging on the beach, surfing, sun tanning, and shopping turns out to be a summer of exploration, spirituality, and growth. (Award Winner for Teens)

Heller, Linda. *The Castle on Hester Street*. Illustrated by Boris Kulikov. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007. ISBN: 0689874340.

A young girl visiting her grandparents learns the story of their immigration to the United States, their life on the Lower East Side of New York City, and how they met in this newly illustrated edition, winner of the Sydney Taylor Book Award when it was first released in 1982. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Lamstein, Sarah Marwil. *Letter on the Wind: A Chanukah Tale*. Illustrated by Neil Waldman. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2007. ISBN: 1932425748.

When his village suffers a drought and there will be no olives oil for the Chanukah menorahs, Hayim, a poor and humble man, writes a letter to the Almighty to request enough oil for the entire village. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Zalben, Jane Breskin. *Light*. New York: Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group, 2007. ISBN: 0525478272.

The concepts of *tikkun olam* and making the world a better place are explained simply yet lyrically in this gorgeously illustrated volume inspired by a 16th-century Midrash. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Wood, Angela Gluck and Dan Stone. *Holocaust: The Events and Their Impact on Real People*. New York: DK Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 0756625351.

This comprehensive, readable, impressively visual history of the Holocaust ranges across the years from the origins of Jews, life in Europe, and the history of anti-Semitism to the post-war period, including the survivors, Nazi trials, stolen property, and concentration camps and present-day memorials. The book is supplemented by a DVD of personal testimonies from the archive of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Taylor, Peter Lane and Christos Nicola. *The Secret of Priest's Grotto: A Holocaust Survival Story*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2007. ISBN: 1580132618.

The amazing story of how a group of thirty-eight Jews managed to survive during World War II for nearly a year in the underground caves of the Western Ukraine is told with captivating narratives and descriptions, sharp full-color photographs, and an attractive lay-out and design. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Pressler, Mirjam. *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie*. Translated by Erik J. Macki. Honesdale, PA: Front Street, 2007. ISBN: 1932425845.

Seventeen year-old Johanna Riemenschneider's idyllic, privileged childhood comes to an abrupt end when she travels to Israel with her German classmates to meet Jewish alumni of their high school who fled the town during World War II. (Honor Award for Teen Readers)

2007

Krensky, Stephen. *Hanukkah at Valley Forge*. Illustrated by Greg Harlin. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2006. ISBN: 0525477381.

During the grim winter at Valley Forge, a Polish-born soldier tells General Washington about Hanukkah, who draws a parallel between the Macabee's war against their foes with the American war against the British oppressors. Beautiful watercolor illustrations add immeasurably to a delightful and inspirational account of this legendary encounter. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Ferber, Brenda A. *Julia's Kitchen*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006. ISBN 0374399328.

When Cara Segal loses her mother and younger sister in a house fire, she questions her belief in God, struggles with her relationship with her father, and tries to find ways to hold onto the memories of her family in this deeply moving novel that will touch the hearts of all readers. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. ISBN: 0375831002.

Death narrates the story of Leisl Meminger, a Lutheran girl in Nazi Germany who sustains herself and those close to her with her love of books and reading. An engaging story that resonates with the full spectrum of human emotions and experiences. (Award Winner for Teens)

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The White Ram: A Story of Abraham and Isaac*. New York: Holiday House, 2006. ISBN: 0823418979.

This beautifully illustrated book adds another dimension to the biblical account of when God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Although "the Evil One" seeks to deter him from his mission, the ram is able to complete it, and his sacrifice provides a rich inheritance for the Jewish people, including the foundations of Jerusalem, and the strings of David's harp. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Landmann, Bimba. *I Am Marc Chagall*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN 0802853056.

With text loosely based on Marc Chagall's autobiography, this picture book features detailed, intricate three-dimensional mixed media illustrations that are a collage of fabrics, metals, woods, papers, clay, photographs, and objects from nature. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Stampler, Ann Redisch. *Shlemazel and the Remarkable Spoon of Pohost*. Illustrated by Jacqueline M. Cohen. New York: Clarion Books, 2006. ISBN 0618369597.

Bright, colorful, animated illustrations enhance this delightfully entertaining story of Shlemazel who is so convinced that he is the most unlucky person in the world that he is afraid to get off his front porch. But when he believes that he has the amazing, remarkable spoon of Pohost, Shlemazel learns the pleasure of a good day's work, finds a wife, and discovers that he doesn't need luck to be happy. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Sugarman, Brynn Olenberg. *Rebecca's Journey Home*. Illustrated by Michelle Shapiro. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc., 2006. ISBN: 1580131573.

The story of a Jewish-American family who adopts a child from Vietnam is recounted with warmth and sensitivity from the adoption procedure and the trip to Asia to the baby's first Shabbat with her new family and her conversion and naming ceremony. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Codell, Esme Raji. *Vive La Paris*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006. ISBN: 0786851244.

Fifth-grader Paris McCray reveals what she has discovered about life in the process of taking piano lessons from Mrs. Rosen, a Holocaust survivor with a sense of humor. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Oberman, Sheldon. *Solomon and the Ant and Other Jewish Folktales*. Introduction and Commentary by Peninnah Schram. Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Boyds Mills Press, 2006. ISBN 1590783077.

From simple stories, to valuable lessons, to an idea of what life was like in Rambam's time or how a holiday was celebrated in Russia, these folktales are brilliant in their simplicity. They can be read straight through, compared and contrasted, embellished upon, or edited for educational purposes. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. Tarrytown, New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2006. ISBN 076145277X.

Told in verse, this is the story of Sylvia Perlmutter, one of twelve surviving children, who hid in the Lodz Ghetto with her family. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Wulf, Linda Press. *The Night of the Burning: Devorah's Story*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006. ISBN: 0374364192.

This first-person narrative is an insightful exploration of the effects of traumatic experiences, and an ultimately hopeful portrait of a young Jewish girl who survives a brutal pogrom in Russia, and journeys to an orphanage and a new life in South Africa. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Hoffman, Alice. *Incantation*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2006. ISBN 0316010197.

Amidst book burnings, trials, and murders, sixteen-year-old Estrella DeMadrigal, living in Spain in 1500, learns that her family is part of a secret community of Jews who converted to Catholicism to avoid persecution. (Honor Award for Teens)

Reinhardt, Dana. *A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2006. ISBN: 0385746989.

In this poignant story, Simone Turner meets Rivka, her biological mother, and learns about the circumstances of her adoption – how Rivka, a Hasidic Jew, became pregnant at sixteen and was shunned by her family, became a photographer and moved to Cape Cod, and now suffers from terminal cancer. (Honor Award for Teens)

2005-6 (Reflects change in dating system)

Silverman, Erica. *Sholom's Treasure: How Sholom Aleichem Became a Writer*. Illus. by Mordicai Gerstein. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004. ISBN: 0374380554.

Chronicles Sholom Aleichem's childhood, revealing the influences that turned him into the great Yiddish writer who would give us the story that became *Fiddler on the Roof*. This is a vital, engaging, living-and-breathing portrait of one of modern Jewish culture's most famous and beloved champions. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Littman, Sarah. *Confessions of a Closet Catholic*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2005. ISBN: 0525473653.

Justine Silver struggles to balance her family's expectations that she should be Jewish "but not too Jewish." Frustrated, she follows a Catholic friend's example by giving up Judaism for Lent, and thus begins a search for identity and belonging that will resonate with readers of all religions. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Borden, Louise. *The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey.* Illus. by Allan Drummond. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN: 0618339248.

This delightfully written story tells how Margret and H.A. Rey escaped from Nazi-occupied France in 1940, carrying in their bicycle baskets the manuscripts that would become their beloved picture books about Curious George, the little monkey. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Marzollo, Jean. *Ruth and Naomi: A Bible Story.* New York: Little, Brown, 2005. ISBN: 0316741396.

In all of her biblical retellings, this author condenses details while preserving the stories' spirit and meaning. This one exemplifies *chesed* (lovingkindness), shown by Ruth and Naomi's caring for one another and by the kindness extended to them by Boaz. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Olswanger, Anna. *Shlemiel Crooks.* Illus. by Paula Goodman Koz. Montgomery, AL: Junebug Books, 2005. ISBN: 158838165X.

Told with Yiddish inflected English, sprinkled with familiar Jewish curses and words, Anna Olswanger elaborates on the true story of the attempted robbery of her great-grandfather's saloon in St. Louis in 1919. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Taback, Simms. *Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me.* New York: Viking, 2005. ISBN: 0670059552.

Brimming with humor and bursting with life, this dynamically illustrated collection of anecdotes and short stories about *kibitzers*, *shlemiels*, *noodniks*, *meshuganers* and other Yiddish types is reminiscent of Taback's award winning *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Krinitz, Esther Nisenthal and Bernice Steinhardt. *Memories of Survival.* New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2005. ISBN: 0786851260.

Esther Nisenthal Krinitz retells the story of her childhood in a small Polish village through a series of hand-stitched embroidered panels. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Napoli, Donna Jo. *The King of Mulberry Street.* New York: Wendy Lamb Books/Random House, 2005. ISBN: 0385746539.

This powerful historical novel about an Italian-Jewish immigrant child reveals to readers that just 100 years ago, children as young as eight came to this country alone, with nothing but their wits and good luck to help them survive. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Rahlens, Holly-Jane. *Prince William, Maximilian Minsky, and Me.* Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2005. ISBN: 0763627046.

Nelly Sue Edelmeister learns to play basketball, copes with a major crush on Prince William, makes a true friend, and finds meaning in becoming a bat mitzvah in this funny and touching novel that takes place in modern Berlin. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Shulevitz, Uri. *The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela: Through Three Continents in the Twelfth Century.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. ISBN: 0374377545.

Known only from the book he wrote about his travels, Benjamin left Spain in 1159 and spent fourteen years traveling. This beautifully illustrated chronicle describes and shows a 12th century world as it might have been experienced by Benjamin of Tudela, complete with muddy roads, searing deserts, walled cities and mighty seas. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

2004

Kass, Pnina Moed. *Real Time.* New York: Clarion Books, October 2004. ISBN: 0618442030.

In this powerful and compelling young adult novel, the lives of sixteen different characters, spanning several countries and continents, intersect over the course of six days preceding and following a bus bombing in present day Jerusalem. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half-Human*. Trans. Doris Orgel. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN: 0689857470.

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Dublin, Anne. *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2004. ISBN: 1896764827.

With clear, concise writing, an easy, conversational tone, relevant and helpful text boxes, and interesting photographs and illustrations, Anne Dublin not only tells the story of Bobbie Rosenfeld but provides an impressive history of Canadian women's sports. She also puts Bobbie's life in perspective by providing background information about Canadian and world history and culture, and supplies details about Bobbie's Jewish background and identity. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Krasinski Square*. Illus. Wendy Watson. New York: Scholastic Press, 2004. ISBN: 0439435404.

Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Kimmel, Eric. *Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2004. ISBN: 0439071755.

Presents the steps performed in a traditional Passover Seder, plus stories, songs, poetry, and art that spans 3,000 years, four continents, and fifteen countries – a book for the whole family to read before and during the holiday. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Weil, Sylvie. *My Guardian Angel*. Translated by Gillian Rosner. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2004. ISBN: 0439576814.

In 11th century Troyes, France, Elvina, the unusual granddaughter of renowned Jewish rabbi Solomon ben Isaac (Rashi), who prefers studying and writing to activities considered respectable for girls, takes a great risk by helping a young boy who has run away from a group of Christian Crusaders. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Marzollo, Jean. *Daniel in the Lions' Den*. New York: Little, Brown, 2003. ISBN: 0316741329.

A simple retelling of the Biblical tale about faith, courage, and heroism introduces the Bible story while a column of ants at the bottom of each page comments on events. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

2003

Davis, Aubrey. *Bagels from Benny*. Illus. by Dusan Petricic. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2003. ISBN: 1553374177.

After accepting the compliments for the tasty bagels made at the family bakery, Benny's grandfather explains that God is really to thank for the delicious creations, causing Benny to begin leaving a bag of bagels for God every week at the synagogue as a demonstration of his gratitude. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Patz, Nancy. *Who Was The Woman Who Wore The Hat?* New York: Dutton, 2003. ISBN: 0525469990.

Offers a reflection on a woman's hat that was on display in the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam that questions who the woman might have been, what her life may have been like, and how she may have ended up a Holocaust victim. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Koralek, Jenny. *The Moses Basket*. Illus. by Pauline Baynes. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003. ISBN: 0802852513.

A simple retelling of how Moses, who grew to lead the Hebrews out of captivity in Egypt, was saved when his mother and sister set him adrift in a water-tight basket where Pharaoh's daughter would find him. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Schuman, Burt E. *Chanukah on the Prairie*. Illus. by Rosalind Charney Kaye. New York: UAHC Press, 2002. ISBN: 080740814X.

After the Zalzman family immigrates to Grand Forks, North Dakota, they are welcomed by the local Jewish community and celebrate their first Chanukah on the prairie. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Silverman, Erica. *When the Chickens Went on Strike: A Rosh Hashanah Tale*. Illus. by Matthew Trueman. New York: Dutton, 2003. ISBN: 0525468625.

A Jewish boy living in Russia learns a lesson from the village chickens at the time of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Broida, Marian. *Ancient Israelites and Their Neighbors: An Activity Guide*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, Inc., 2003. ISBN: 1556524579 Pbk.

Examines the ancient cultures of the Israelites, the Philistines, and the Phoenicians, focusing on art, architecture, food, clothing, writing, history, religion, and work. Includes related activities. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Feinstein, Edward. *Tough Questions Jews Ask: A Young Adult's Guide to Building a Jewish Life*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2003. ISBN: 158023139X pbk.

Provides questions and answers for some major concerns facing Jewish youths, and includes explanations about such issues as God, prayer, good and evil, and the afterlife. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Mack, Tracy. *Birdland*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. ISBN: 0439535905.

Fourteen-year-old, tongue-tied Jed spends winter break working on a school project filming a documentary about his East Village, New York City, neighborhood, where he is continually reminded of his older brother, Zeke, a promising poet who died the year before. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

2002

Hershenhorn, Esther. *Chicken Soup by Heart*. Illus. by Rosanne Litzinger. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. ISBN: 0689826656.

When Rudie's sitter gets the flu, he uses her recipe to make her a batch of special chicken soup, including the secret recipe of stories from the heart. (Award Winner for Younger Readers, 2002)

Levine, Karen. *Hana's Suitcase: A True Story*. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Second Story Press, 2002. ISBN: 189676455X

Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 2003. ISBN: 0807531480.

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Pinkney, Jerry. *Noah's Ark*. New York: SeaStar/North-South Books, 2002. ISBN: 587172011.

Retells the biblical story of the great flood and how Noah and his family faithfully responded to God's call to save animal life on earth. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Rouss, Sylvia. *Sammy Spider's First Trip To Israel: A Book About The Five Senses.* Illus. by Katherine Janus Kahn. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2002. ISBN: 1580130356 pbk.

Sammy Spider joins the Shapiro family on a vacation, and he uses his five senses to experience Israel. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Zalben Jane Breskin. *Pearl's Passover: A Family Celebration Through Stories, Recipes, Crafts, And Songs.* New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. ISBN: 0689814879.

As an extended family prepares for their Passover celebration, they explain the various customs and traditions related to this holiday. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Bunting, Eve. *One Candle.* Illus. by K. Wendy Popp. New York: Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins, 2002. ISBN: 0060281154.

Every year a family celebrates Hanukkah by retelling the story of how Grandma and her sister managed to mark the day while in a German concentration camp. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Hautzig, Esther. *A Picture Of Grandmother.* Illus. by Beth Peck. New York: Frances Foster/ Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. ISBN: 0374359202.

A letter inviting Sara's mother and grandmother to come from Poland to America and mentioning a mysterious photograph arouses Sara's curiosity and leads her to discover a family secret. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Rogasky, Barbara. *Smoke and Ashes: The Story Of The Holocaust, Revised and Expanded.* New York: Holiday House, 2002. ISBN: 0823416771 pbk.

An account of the tragic fate of the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust is set against a chronicle of the roots of Nazi anti-Semitism, Hitler's rise to power, World War II, and the Nazi program of extermination. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

2001

Rael, Elsa Okon. *Rivka's First Thanksgiving.* Illus. by Maryann Kovalski. New York: Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster, 2001. ISBN: 0689839014.

Having heard about Thanksgiving in school, nine-year-old Rivka tries to convince her immigrant family and her Rabbi that it is a holiday for all Americans, Jews and non-Jews alike. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Reef, Catherine. *Sigmund Freud: Pioneer of the Mind.* New York: Clarion Books, 2001. ISBN: 0618017623.

A biography of Sigmund Freud explains the methods he used to treat the mentally ill which led to the birth of psychoanalysis, and explores his controversial theories connecting dreams, desires, and behavior. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

2000

Kimmel, Eric A. *Gershon's Monster: A Story For The Jewish New Year.* Illus. by Jon J. Muth. New York: Scholastic Press, 2000. ISBN: 043910839X.

When his sins threaten the lives of his beloved twin children, a Jewish man finally repents of his wicked ways. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Vos, Ida. *The Key is Lost.* Trans. by Terese Edelstein. New York: Morrow/HarperCollins, 2000. ISBN: 0688162835.

Based on a true story, this historical fiction tells of two young sisters who get separated from their parents and are forced to live hidden away in the attics of Holland in order to escape from being caught by the Nazis. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Fagan, Cary. *The Market Wedding*. Illus. by Regolo Ricci. Plattsburgh, NY: Tundra Books of Northern New York, 2000. ISBN: 0887764924.

A fishmonger falls in love with the milliner whose cart is across the street from his in the turn-of-the-century Kensington Market, and even though his plan for a fine wedding backfires, all ends well. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Oberman, Sheldon. *The Wisdom Bird: A Tale of Solomon and Sheba*. Illus. by Neil Waldman. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2000. ISBN: 1563978164.

When the Queen of Sheba, the wisest woman in the world, comes to Jerusalem to present an unusual request to King Solomon, the wisest man in the world, the fate of every bird in the world is at stake. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Hest, Amy. *Love You, Soldier*. Illus. by Sonja Lamut. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2000. ISBN: 0763609439.

Katie, a Jewish girl living in New York City during World War II, sees many dynamic changes in her world as she ages from seven to ten waiting for her father to return from the war. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Fireflies in the Dark: The Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin*. New York: Holiday House, 2000. ISBN: 082341681X pbk.

Recounts how Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to children at the Terezin Concentration Camp. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1999

Schur, Maxine Rose. *The Peddler's Gift*. Illus. by Kimberly Bulcken Root. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN: 080371987.

A young boy in turn-of-the-century rural Russia learns that appearances are often deceiving after he steals and then tries to return a dreidel to the traveling peddler Shnook. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Rosen, Sybil. *Speed of Light*. New York: Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN: 0689841515 pbk.

An eleven-year-old Jewish girl living in the South during the 1950s struggles with the antisemitism and racism which pervade her small community. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Gerstein, Mordicai. *Noah and the Great Flood*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN: 0689813716.

A retelling of the biblical story of how Noah and his family were saved, along with two of every living creature, when God destroyed the wicked of the world with a devastating flood. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Taback, Simms. *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. New York: Viking Children's Books, 2000. ISBN: 0670878553.

An old Eastern European folk song provides the basis for a tale about a peasant who devises clever uses for his worn-out overcoat. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Wilkowski, Susan. *Baby's Bris*. Illus. by Judith Friedman. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1999. \$16.95. ISBN: 1580130534 pbk.

Sophie becomes a big sister and, during the first eight days of her brother's life, learns about the custom of *bris* (circumcision) and celebrates the event with her family and new brother Ben. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *Journeys with Elijah*. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. San Diego, CA: Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace & Company, 1999. ISBN: 0152004459.

Presents eight stories about the biblical prophet Elijah, set in a variety of time periods and in places all over the world where Jews have lived. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Lester, Julius. *When The Beginning Began: Stories About God, the Creatures and Us*. Illus. by Emily Lisker. San Diego, CA: Silver Whistle/Harcourt Brace & Company, 1999. ISBN: 0152012389.

A collection of traditional and original Jewish tales interpreting the Biblical story of the creation of the world. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Propp, Vera. *When the Soldiers Were Gone*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1999. ISBN: 0698118812 pbk.

After the German occupation of the Netherlands, Benjamin leaves the Christian family with whom he had been living and is reunited with his real Jewish parents who returned from hiding and whom Benjamin doesn't remember. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1998

Stillerman, Marci. *Nine Spoons*. Illus. by Pesach Gerber. New York: HaChai Publishers, 1998. ISBN: 0922613842.

A few brave souls in a Nazi camp are determined to gather nine spoons to make a menorah for Chanukah. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Stones in Water*. New York: Dutton Books, 1997. ISBN: 0141306009 pbk.

After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Gelman, Rita Golden. *Queen Esther Saves Her People*. Illus. by France Lessac. New York: Scholastic Press, 1998. ISBN: 0590470256.

Retells the story of how a beautiful Jewish girl became the Queen of Persia and saved her people from death at the hands of the evil Hamen. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Prose, Francine. *You Never Know: A Legend of the Lamed-Vavniks*. Illus. by Mark Podwal. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998. ISBN: 0688157580.

Though mocked by the rest of the villagers, poor Schmuel the shoemaker turns out to be a very special person. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Schrier, Jeffrey. *On the Wings of Eagles: An Ethiopian Boy's Story*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1998. ISBN: 076130004X.

A Jewish Ethiopian boy recounts the story of Israel's 1991 airlift rescue of his threatened people. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Siegel, Bruce. *The Magic of Kol Nidre*. Illus. by Shelly O. Haas. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1998. ISBN: 158013002X pbk.

The magic of the Kol Nidre prayer, central to the Yom Kippur service, is explored from the viewpoint of three generations. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Ducharme, Dede Fox. *The Treasure in the Tiny Blue Tin*. Fort Worth, TX: Texas Christian University Press, 1998. ISBN: 0875651801 pbk.

In the early 1900's in Texas, a twelve-year-old Jewish immigrant runs away to search for his father who he fears is sick, and he is joined on his dangerous journey by a prejudiced country boy. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Levitin, Sonia. *The Singing Mountain*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1998. ISBN: 068983523X pbk.

While traveling in Israel for the summer, seventeen-year-old Mitch decides to stay and pursue a life of Jewish orthodoxy, forcing him to make some important decisions about the family and life he is leaving in southern California. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Lobel, Anita. *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998. ISBN: 0380732858 pbk.

The author describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1997

Rael, Elsa Okon. *When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge Street*. Illus. by Marjorie Priceman. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN: 0689804512.

While staying with her grandparents in New York City in the mid-1930's, eight-year-old Zeesie joins in the celebration of Simchat Torah and sees a different side of her stern grandfather. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Jaffe, Nina. *The Mysterious Visitor: Stories of the Prophet Elijah*. Illus. by Elivia Savadier. New York: Scholastic, 1997. ISBN: 0590484222.

A collection of folktales featuring the prophet Elijah, a messenger from heaven who comes to earth in many disguises. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Hest, Amy. *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*. Illus. by P.J. Lynch. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1997. ISBN: 076361274X pbk.

A thirteen-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother and immigrates to New York City, where she works for three years sewing lace and earning money to bring Grandmother to the United States, too. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN: 0689823959 pbk.

The author describes her experiences during World War II when she and her family were sent to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1996

Sofer, Barbara. *Shalom, Haver: Goodbye, Friend*. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1996. ISBN: 0929371976.

A photo essay in memory of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister who was assassinated in 1995. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Schur, Maxine Rose Schur. *When I Left My Village*. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. New York: Dial Books, 1996. ISBN: 0803715617.

An Ethiopian Jewish family leaves their oppressed mountain village to make a difficult and treacherous journey in the hope of reaching freedom in Israel. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Prose, Francine. *Dybbuk: A Story Made in Heaven*. Illus. by Mark Podwal. New York: Greenwillow, 1996. ISBN: 0688143075.

Because forty days before a baby is born the angels in heaven decide whom it will marry, nothing prevents the wedding of Leah and Chonon from taking place. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Wolkstein, Diane. *Esther's Story*. Illus. by Juan Wijngaard. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1996. ISBN: 0688121276.

Almost twenty-five centuries ago, a shy orphan girl was unexpectedly chosen as queen of Persia. Blessed with majesty and humanity, she risked the wrath of a king to save her people. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1995

Hoestlandt, Jo. *Star of Fear, Star of Hope*. Illus. by Johanna Kang. Translated from French. New York: Walker and Company, 1995. ISBN: 0802775888 pbk.

Nine-year-old Helen is confused by the disappearance of her Jewish friend during the German occupation of Paris. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Vos, Ida. *Dancing on the Bridge of Avignon*. Translated from Dutch. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995. ISBN: 0395720397

Relates the experiences of a young Jewish girl and her family during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Cohn, Janice. *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*. Illus. by Bill Farnsworth. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1995. ISBN: 0807511536 pbk.

Describes how people in Billings, Montana joined together to fight a series of hate crimes against a Jewish family. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Meyer, Carolyn. *Drummers of Jericho*. San Diego: Gulliver Books for Harcourt Brace, 1995. ISBN: 0152001905 pbk.

A fourteen-year-old Jewish girl goes to live with her father and stepmother in a small town and soon finds herself the center of a civil rights battle when she objects to the high school band marching in the formation of a cross. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1994

Oberman, Sheldon. *The Always Prayer Shawl*. Illus. Ted Lewin. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press, 1994. ISBN: 0140561579 pbk.

A prayer shawl is handed down from grandfather to grandson in this story of Jewish tradition and the passage of generations. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Schnur, Steven. *The Shadow Children*. Illus. by Herbert Tauss. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1994. ISBN: 0688138314.

While spending the summer on his grandfather's farm in the French countryside, eleven-year-old Etienne discovers a secret dating back to World War II and encounters the ghosts of Jewish children who suffered a dreadful fate under the Nazis. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Schur, Maxine. *Day of Delight: A Jewish Sabbath in Ethiopia*. Illus. by Brian Pickney. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1994. ISBN: 0803714149.

Depicts a young Ethiopian Jewish boy and his family, including their typical daily routine followed by preparation for and celebration of the Sabbath. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. *One Foot Ashore*. New York: Walker and Company, 1994. ISBN: 0802776019 pbk.

Arriving alone and destitute in Amsterdam in the spring of 1654, sixteen-year-old Maria Ben Lazar finds refuge and friendship in the household of the artist Rembrandt and continues to search for her parents and her younger sister. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1993

Jaffe, Nina. *The Uninvited Guest*. Illus. Elivia Savadier. New York: Scholastic, 1993. ISBN: 0590446533.

Includes background information and retellings of traditional tales from Jewish folklore and legend related to major holidays, such as Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, and Purim. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Matas, Carol. *Sworn Enemies*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1993. ISBN: 0533083260.

In nineteenth-century Russia, betrayed by a fellow Jew, sixteen-year-old Aaron is taken by officers of the Czar and forced into military service. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Dolphin, Laurie. *Neve Shalom Wahat Al-Salam: Oasis of Peace*. Photos by Ben Dolphin. New York: Scholastic, 1993. ISBN: 0590457993.

Text and photos present the lives of two boys, one Jewish and one Arab, who attend school in a unique community near Jerusalem where Jews and Arabs live together in peace. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Techner, David and Judith Techner. *A Candle for Grandpa*. Illus. Joel Iskowitz. New York: UAHC Press, 1993. ISBN: 0807405078.

A young boy describes the events surrounding the death of his grandfather including his and his family's feelings of grief and the Jewish funeral service that they participate in. Also includes answers to frequently asked questions regarding death and funerals. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Linnea, Sharon. *Raoul Wallenberg: The Man Who Stopped Death*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1993. ISBN: 0827604483 pbk.

Traces the life of the Swedish diplomat who saved Hungarian Jews during World War II and then mysteriously disappeared after the Russians occupied Budapest. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1992

Gilman, Phoebe. *Something from Nothing*. Toronto: North Winds Press/Scholastic Canada, 1993. ISBN: 059073802X

In this retelling of a traditional Jewish folktale, Joseph's baby blanket is transformed into ever smaller items as he grows until there is nothing left—but then Joseph has an idea. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Hesse, Karen. *Letters from Rifka*. New York: Henry Holt, 1992. ISBN: 0140363912 pbk.

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Gellman, Ellie. *Jeremy's Dreidel*. Illus. Judith Friedman. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1992. ISBN: 092937133X.

Jeremy signs up for a Hanukkah workshop to make unusual dreidels and creates a clay dreidel with braille dots for his dad, who is blind. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Hautzig, Esther. *Riches*. Illus. Donna Diamond. New York: Harper Collins, 1992. ISBN: 006022259.

This finalist for the 1993 Jewish Book Award tells of an old man and woman in a little Eastern European village who are given some surprising advice from a wise rabbi. They have worked hard, raised a family, and given generously to the poor, but they come to realize what is missing from their lives—and where their riches really lie. — Ingram, www.amazon.com (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Kimmel, Eric A. *The Spotted Pony: A Collection of Hanukkah Stories*. Illus. Leonard Everett Fisher. New York: Holiday House, 1992. ISBN: 0823409368.

Eight traditional *shammes* stories—about King Solomon and his magic ring, a mysterious spotted pony, Benayahu ben Yehoyada, and other heroes, demons, and fools—help celebrate the Festival of Lights. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Rosenblum, Richard. *Journey to the Golden Land*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1992. ISBN: 082760405X.

Having left oppressive czarist Russia in search of better living conditions, Benjamin and his family endure the difficult journey and land at Ellis Island to start a new life in America. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. *The Sabbath Lion: A Jewish Folktale from Algeria*. Illus. by Stephen Fieser. New York: Harper Collins, 1992. ISBN: 0060208538.

Because of Yosef's devotion to honoring the Sabbath, he is given special protection by a great lion during a dangerous journey through the desert. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Cormier, Robert. *Tunes for Bears to Dance to*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1992. ISBN: 0440219035 pbk.

Eleven-year-old Henry escapes his family's problems by watching the woodcarving of Mr. Levine, an elderly Holocaust survivor, but when Henry is manipulated into betraying his friend he comes to know true evil. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1991

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale*. Illus. by Erika Weihs. New York: Viking, 1991. ISBN: 067083047X.

Young, blind Hershel finds that he has special gifts he can use to help his mother during the Jewish holiday of Purim. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Lanton, Sandy. *Daddy's Chair*. Illus. by Shelly O. Haas. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1991. ISBN: 0929371526 pbk.

When Michael's father dies his family sits shiva, observing the Jewish week of mourning, and remembers the good things about him. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. *The Diamond Tree: Jewish Tales from Around the World*. Illus. by Uri Shulevitz. New York: Harper Collins, 1991. ISBN: 0064406954 pbk.

A collection of Jewish traditional nursery tales from many different countries. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1990

Kimmel, Eric. *The Chanukkah Guest*. Illus. by Giora Carmi. New York: Holiday House, 1990. ISBN: 0823409783 pbk.

On the first night of Chanukkah, Old Bear wanders into Bubba Brayna's house and receives a delicious helping of potato latkes when she mistakes him for the rabbi. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Geras, Adèle. *My Grandmother's Stories*. Illus. by Jael Jordan. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990. ISBN: 0679809104.

As a young girl spends time at her grandmother's apartment, she is treated to traditional Jewish tales, including "Bavsi's Feast," "The Golden Shoes," "The Garden of Talking Flowers," and "A Phantom at the Wedding." See the 2003 reprint edition with new color illustrations by Anita Lobel. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Feder, Harriet. *Judah Who Always Said "No."* Illus. by Katherine Janus Kahn. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1990. ISBN: 0929371143 pbk.

Brave Judah, a leader in the resistance to the changes a Greek king tries to force upon the Jews of Jerusalem, takes part in a stunning victory celebrated today as Hanukkah. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *The World's Birthday: A Rosh Hashana Story.* Illus. by Jeanette Winter. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1990. ISBN: 0152000453 pbk.

Daniel is determined to have a birthday party for the world to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Laird, Christa. *Shadow of the Wall.* New York: Greenwillow, 1990. ISBN: 0688152910 pbk.

Living with his mother and two sisters in the Warsaw Ghetto, Misha is befriended by the director of the orphanage, Dr. Korczak, and finds a purpose to his life when he joins a resistance organization. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Mayerson, Evelyn Wilde. *The Cat Who Escaped Steerage.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990. ISBN: 0684192098

As nine-year-old Chanah and her family journey from their native Poland to seek a new life in America, Chanah worries about the possible fates of her deaf-mute cousin Yaacov and of Pitsel, the cat she had rescued in Marseilles and smuggled aboard ship. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1989

Blanc, Esther Silverstein. *Berchick.* Illus. by Tennessee Dixon. Volcano, CA: Volcano Press, 1989. ISBN: 0912078812

Homesteading in Wyoming in the early 1900's, a Jewish mother develops an unusual relationship with a colt she adopts named Berchick. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989. ISBN: 0440227534 reissue pbk.

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Karkowsky, Nancy. *Grandma's Soup.* Illus. by Shelly O. Haas. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1989. ISBN: 0930494997 pbk.

A young girl confronts her grandmother's growing confusion and disability from Alzheimer's disease. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Kimmel, Eric. *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins.* Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. New York: Holiday House, 1989. ISBN: 0823411311 pbk.

Relates how Hershel outwits the goblins that haunt the old synagogue and prevent the village people from celebrating Hanukkah. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Rosenbloom, Richard. *The Old Synagogue.* Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989. ISBN: 0827603223.

A once-beautiful synagogue on a crowded street in a big city is abandoned and becomes a factory when the original neighborhood inhabitants become more prosperous and move away; but as time goes by young Jewish families rediscover the area, move in, and restore to beauty the old synagogue. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Wolf, Ferida. *Pink Slippers, Bat Mitzvah Blues.* Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989. ISBN: 0827605315 pbk.

Thirteen-year-old Alyssa tries to balance the conflicting demands of ballet training with finding her place as a Jew in today's world. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Levitin, Sonia. *Silver Days*. New York: Atheneum, 1989. ISBN: 0689715706 pbk.

In this sequel to *Journey to America*, the reunited Platt family works hard at settling in to America, but the spectre of the war in Europe continues to affect their lives. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Matas, Carol. *Lisa's War*. New York: Scholastic, 1989. ISBN: 0590435175 pbk.

During the Nazi occupation of Denmark, Lisa and other teenage Jews become involved in an underground resistance movement and eventually must flee for their lives. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1988

Polacco, Patricia. *The Keeping Quilt*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988. ISBN: 0689844476 pbk.

A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family, remaining a symbol of their enduring love and faith. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. New York: Viking Kestrel, 1988. ISBN: 0142401099 reissue pbk.

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

Ganz, Yaffa. *From Head to Toe: A Book About You*. New York: Feldheim, 1988. ISBN: 0873064461.

Describes the main parts of the human body, how they work, and how Jewish people employ all parts of their bodies in the service of God. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Geisert, Arthur. *The Ark*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988. ISBN: 0618006087 pbk.

Retells the familiar Bible story, using etchings as illustrations, and vividly depicting life inside the ark. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Zalben, Jane Breskin. *Beni's First Chanukah*. New York: Henry Holt, 1988. ISBN: 0805004793 pbk.

On the first morning of Chanukah, Beni the bear eagerly prepares for the evening's festivities. Then he and his squirrel friends spend a wonderful evening filled with love and joy. (Honor Award for Younger Readers)

Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. *Out of Many Waters*. New York: Walker, 1988. ISBN: 0802774016 pbk.

Kidnapped from their parents during the Portuguese Inquisition and sent to work as slaves at a monastery in Brazil, two Jewish sisters attempt to make their way back to Europe to find their parents, but instead one becomes part of a group founding the first Jewish settlement in the United States. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Provost, Gary and Gail. *David and Max*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1988. ISBN: 0827603924 pbk.

When twelve-year-old David spends the summer with his grandfather Max, he helps him search for a friend who perished during the Holocaust, and learns about Max's life during World War II. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

Meltzer, Milton. *Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust*. New York: Harper and Row, 1988. ISBN: 0064461173 pbk.

Detailing an often neglected side of the Holocaust, this study examines the courage and human decency of ordinary people who risked their lives to rescue Jews from Nazi extermination. (Honor Award for Older Readers)

1987

Adler, David. *The Number on My Grandfather's Arm*. Photos by Rose Eichenbaum. New York: UAHC Press, 1987. ISBN: 0807403288.

A little girl questions a number printed on her grandfather's arm and he explains how he received it in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Levitin, Sonia. *The Return*. New York: Atheneum, 1987. ISBN: 0449702804 reissue pbk.

Desti and the other members of her Falasha family, Jews suffering from discrimination in Ethiopia, finally flee the country and attempt the dangerous journey to Israel. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1986

Hirsh, Marilyn. *Joseph Who Loved the Sabbath*. Illus. by Devis Grebu. New York: Viking Kestrel, 1986. ISBN: 0670811947 pbk.

Despite his poverty, Joseph celebrated the seventh day with joy. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Pitt, Nancy. *Beyond the High White Wall*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1986. ISBN: 0684186632.

Witnessing the murder of a peasant outside her small town in the Russian Ukraine in 1903, thirteen-year-old Libby triggers a wave of hate against her Jewish family, prompting them to consider emigrating to America. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1985

Freedman, Florence B. *Brothers*. Illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. New York: Harper & Row, 1985. ISBN: 0060218711.

Hard times on adjoining farms bring about parallel acts of kindness and a celebration of "how good it is for brothers to live together in friendship." (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Snyder, Carol. *Ike and Mama and the Seven Surprises*. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1985. ISBN: 0688037321.

Ike is very skeptical when his mother promises that he will have seven surprises in the month before his Bar Mitzvah, especially, with his father still hospitalized with tuberculosis and a newly-arrived, jobless cousin living in their small apartment. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1984

Schwartz, Amy. *Mrs. Moskowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1984. ISBN: 082760372X pbk.

Mrs. Moskowitz is unhappy in her new apartment until the discovery of her old Sabbath candlesticks prompt her into a series of activities that turn her new dwelling into a real home. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Orlev, Uri. *The Island on Bird Street*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984. ISBN: 0395616239 reissue pbk.

During World War II a Jewish boy is left on his own for months in a ruined house in the Warsaw Ghetto, where he must learn all the tricks of survival under constantly life-threatening conditions. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1983

Pomerantz, Barbara. *Bubby, Me, and Memories*. New York: UAHC Press, 1983. ISBN: 0807402532.

Depicts the loss felt by a young child after the death of her grandmother. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Zar, Rose. *In the Mouth of the Wolf*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1983. ISBN: 0827603827 pbk.

The author describes her experiences in wartime Poland and how she survived the Holocaust by passing herself off as an Aryan. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1982

Heller, Linda. *The Castle On Hester Street*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1982. ISBN: 0827603231 pbk.

Julie's grandmother deflates many of her husband's tall tales about their journey from Russia to America and their life on Hester Street. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Sachs, Marilyn. *Call Me Ruth*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1982. ISBN: 0688137377 pbk.

A young immigrant, newly arrived in Manhattan in 1908, has conflicting feelings about her mother's increasingly radical union involvement. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1981

Cohen, Barbara. *Yussel's Prayer*. Illustrated by Michael J. Deraney. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1981. ISBN: 0688045812 pbk.

A cowherd's simple but sincere Yom Kippur prayer is instrumental in ending the day's fast. (Award Winner for Younger Readers)

Lasky, Kathryn. *The Night Journey*. New York: Penguin USA, 1981. ISBN: 0140320482 reissue pbk.

A young girl ignores her parents' wishes and persuades her great-grandmother to relate the story of her escape from czarist Russia. (Award Winner for Older Readers)

1980

Everett Fisher, Leonard. *A Russian Farewell*. New York: Four Winds Press, 1980. ISBN: 059007525X.

Depicts the anti-Semitic terror that finally drives Benjamin Shapiro, his wife, and 11 children out of Czarist Russia to America at the beginning of the 20th century. (Award Winner)

1979

Snyder, Carol. *Ike and Mama and the Block Wedding*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1979. ISBN: 0698204611.

Rosie Weinstein is getting married on Sunday but not without a little help from the residents of East 136th Street. (Award Winner)

1978

Orgel, Doris. *The Devil in Vienna*. New York: Penguin USA, 1978. ISBN: 014032500X reissue pbk.

A Jewish girl and the daughter of a Nazi have been best friends since they started school, but in 1938 the thirteen-year-olds find their close relationship difficult to maintain. (Award Winner)

1977

Heyman, Anita. *Exit From Home*. New York: Random House, 1977. ISBN: 0517529033.

A Jewish youth, training to become a rabbi in oppressive turn-of-the century Russia, becomes exposed to "worldly" ideas which change his attitude towards his religion and his country. (Award Winner)

1976

Meltzer, Milton. *Never to Forget*. New York: Harper Collins Children's Books, 1976. ISBN: 0064461181 reissue pbk.

Describes Hitler's rise, the extermination of Europe's Jews, and the slow emergence of resistance, and includes first-hand accounts of ghetto life and death-camp terror. (Award Winner)

1975

Moskin, Marietta. *Waiting for Mama*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1975. ISBN: 0698203194.

A Russian immigrant family living in New York in the early 1900's prepares for the long-awaited arrival of their mother and baby sister. (Award Winner)

1974

No Award

1973

Suhl, Yuri. *Uncle Misha's Partisans*. New York: Four Winds, 1973. ISBN: 0590072951.

During World War II in the Ukraine, an orphaned Jewish boy joins a band of partisans who give him an important assignment against the Nazis. (Award Winner)

1972

No Award (see Body-of-Work Award)

1971

No Award (see Body-of-Work Award)

1970

Lange, Suzanne. *The Year*. S.G. Phillips, 1970. ISBN: 0875991734.

Eighteen-year-old Ann Sanger leaves the United States, despite the opposition of her parents, with a group of young American and Canadians to help with the work of an Israeli kibbutz near the Syrian border. – *book jacket* (Award Winner)

1969

Ish-Kishor, Sulamith. *Our Eddie*. New York: Pantheon, 1969. ISBN: 039481455X.

Teenaged Eddie tries to make up to his family for his father's lack of warmth and financial support, but seems doomed to tragedy at every turn. (Award Winner)

1968

Hautzig, Esther. *The Endless Steppe*. New York: Harper Collins Children's Books, 1968. ISBN: 006440577X reissue pbk.

The author describes her experiences during World War II when she and her family were arrested by the Russians and sent to work in the Siberian gypsum mines. (Award Winner)

Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award Winners

2004

Eric Kimmel, author of over fifty children's books, has written more than twenty books of Jewish interest during his illustrious career, including *Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award and a 2004 Sydney Taylor Honor Book. He won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in 2000 for *Gershon's Monster* and in 1990 for *The Chanukah Guest*.

2002

Judythe Groner and **Madeline Wikler**, founders of Kar-Ben Copies, publishers of 8 Sydney Taylor Award and Honor Winners: *Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel*, *Baby's Bris*, *The Magic of Kol Nidre*, *Shalom, Haver*, *Jeremy's Dreidel*, *Daddy's Chair*, *Judah Who Always Said "No"* and *Grandma's Soup*, as well as numerous other quality children's books with positive Jewish content. For more information on Kar-Ben Copies, now a division of the Lerner Publishing Group, go to www.kar-ben.com.

1997

Barbara Diamond Goldin, author of 3 Sydney Taylor Award and Honor Winners: *Journeys with Elijah, Cakes and Miracles*, and *The World's Birthday*, as well as numerous other children's books with Jewish content like *Just Enough Is Plenty: A Hanukkah Tale* (1988), *The Magician's Visit* (1993), *Bat Mitzvah: A Jewish Girl's Coming of Age* (1995), *While the Candles Burn: Eight Stories for Hanukkah* (1996), *A Mountain of Blintzes* (2001), *One-Hundred-and-One Jewish Read-Aloud Stories: Ten-Minute Readings from the World's Best-Loved Jewish Literature* (2001), and *Night Lights: A Sukkot Story* (2002).

1989

Yaffa Ganz is the author of forty Jewish children's books depicting the lives of modern-Orthodox American children including the "Savta Simcha" series and the "Mimmy & Simmy" books.

1984

Miriam Chaikin was a long-time editor-in-chief of children's books in major New York houses. She has published over 30 books for children of all ages including *A Nightmare in History the Holocaust 1933-1945* (1987), *Menorahs, Mezuzas and Other Jewish Symbols* (1990), *Clouds of Glory: Legends and Stories About Bible Times* (1997), *Angels Sweep the Desert Floor: Bible Legends About Moses in the Wilderness* (2002), and *Alexandra's Scroll* (2002).

1980

Barbara Cohen, author of the Sydney Taylor award winning book *Yussel's Prayer*, has also written over 20 children's books including *Thank You, Jackie Robinson* (1974), *Molly's Pilgrim* (1983), *The Secret Grove* (1985), *The Christmas Revolution* (1987), *Make a Wish, Molly* (1994), and *Here Come the Purim Players!* (1998).

Sadie Rose Weilerstein is best known for her series of books about the adventures of a thumb-sized boy named K'tonton, published between 1935 and 1993.

1979

Marilyn Hirsh, author of the Sydney Taylor award winning book *Joseph Who Loved the Sabbath*, also adapted and illustrated many traditional Jewish folktales: *Could Anything Be Worse?* (1974) *Captain Jiri and Rabbi Jacob* (1976), *The Rabbi and the Twenty-Nine Witches* (1977), and *Deborah the Dybbuk* (1978).

1978

Sydney Taylor's *All-of-a-Kind Family*, published by Follett in 1951, became the first commercially published, widely distributed children's book with a Jewish subject. She continued the adventures of the five Jewish sisters living in a 4 room apartment with their parents on New York's lower East Side in *All-of-a-Kind Family Downtown*, *More All-of-a-Kind Family*, *All-of-a-Kind Family Uptown*, and *Ella of All-of-a-Kind Family*. Sydney Taylor also wrote *A Papa Like Everyone Else* and *Danny Loves a Holiday*.

1972

Molly Cone is the author of numerous books for children of all ages published between 1963 and 1999 including picture books, biographies, and young adult fiction.

1971

Isaac Bashevis Singer, Polish-born American journalist, novelist, short-story writer, essayist, and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978, also wrote several books for children including *Why Noah Chose the Dove* (1973, illustrated by Eric Carle), *The Power of Light: Eight Stories for Hanukkah* (1980), *The Golem* (1982, illustrated by Uri Shulevitz), and several short story collections.

Some book descriptions are from the annotation, synopsis or card catalog description available from www.btol.com or www.amazon.com.