

HANUKKAH

READ UP!



The Sydney Taylor Book Award recognizes the best Jewish children's books each year. A committee of children's librarians and other children's literature experts evaluates over one hundred books to find the best of the best.

Below are listed some of the great Hanukkah books the committee has seen over the last few years. These titles are recommended for you to give as gifts, or to borrow from your library for holiday reading fun!

For Younger Kids

***I Have a Little Dreidel* by Maxie Baum, illustrated by Julie Paschkis. Scholastic, 2006.**

This extended version of the traditional song is illustrated in a warm, folksy style. (Preschool-Grade 3)

***The Miracle of Hanukkah* by Seymour Chwast. Blue Apple Books, 2006.**

Beautiful illustrations and the innovative design of this book bring this simply-told story of Hanukkah to life. (Grades K-3)

***Eight Wild Nights: A Family Hanukkah Tale* by Brian P. Cleary, illustrated by David Udovic. Kar-Ben Publishing, 2006.**

Genuinely clever rhymes tell the story of an extended family's raucous eight nights of Hanukkah. (Grades K-3)

***Hanukkah, Shmanukkah!* by Esme Raji Codell, illustrated by LeUyen Pham. Hyperion, 2005.**

An adaptation of Dickens' Christmas Carol with protagonist Scroogemacher visited by three ghostly rabbis who take him back in time to the Maccabees, to present day tenements (early 20th century) and then on to the future. Will he get the message? (Grades 2-5) 2006 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

***The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate* by Janice Cohn, illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Albert Whitman, 1995.**

Describes how people in Billings, Montana joined together to fight a series of hate crimes against a Jewish family. (Grades 2-5) 1996 SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARD

***Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah* by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Nancy Cote. Albert Whitman, 2004.**

Rachel visits Mrs. Greenberg next door and proceeds to mess up her immaculate kitchen while making potato latkes. (Preschool-Grade 2) 2005 AJL NOTABLE BOOK See also *The Borrowed Hanukkah Latkes*, a 1997 AJL NOTABLE BOOK.

***Celebrate Hanukkah with Lights, Latkes and Dreidls* by Deborah Heiligman. National Geographic, 2006.**

Clear text describes two miracles of the holiday: the Maccabee's victory over the powerful enemies and the oil that burned for eight days after the Temple was rededicated. There are color photographs of Jewish children from all over the world on every page, celebrating both the holiday and Jewish diversity. (Preschool-Grade 2)

***Celebrating Hanukkah* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith, illustrated by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1996.**

A family from San Francisco's Temple Emanu El is the photographic subject of a book that is not only about Hanukkah but also about many of the symbols and practices associated with the holiday. (Grades K-3) 1996 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

***The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle* by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc., 2006.**

A giant bird from Jewish legend has a new adventure providing all of the oil for the menorah in the Temple and learning about sharing. (Preschool-Grade 2).

***Moishe's Miracle* by Laura Kraus Melmed, illustrated by David Slonim. HarperCollins, 2000.**

On the eve of Hanukkah, a poor man receives a magic frying pan that produces endless latkes. Moishe wants to feed the whole village but his wife, Baila, has other ideas. The deep, dusky pictures glow with magic. (Grades K-2) 2001 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

***Hanukkah at Valley Forge* by Stephen Krensky, illustrated by Greg Harlin. Dutton, 2006.**

During the grim winter at Valley Forge, a Polish-born soldier tells General Washington about Hanukkah, who draws parallels between the Macabbees war against their foes with the American war against the British oppressors. (Grades 2-5)

***Runaway Dreidel* by Leslea Newman, illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker. Henry Holt, 2002.**

"Twas the first night of Chanukah and on the fifth floor, there was holiday hustling and busting galore" begins this engaging tale of a dreidel that leads a little boy, his family and neighbors on a merry chase. (Preschool-Grade 2) 2003 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

***The Trees of the Dancing Goats* by Patricia Polacco. Simon and Schuster, 1996.**

When a scarlet fever epidemic threatens to ruin their Christian neighbors' Christmas, a Jewish farming family decorates little trees for them, using the carved animals that were meant to be Hanukkah presents. (Grades K-3) 1996 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

GREAT HANUKKAH BOOKS FOR KIDS

Recommended by the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee
of the Association of Jewish Libraries

Toby Belfer Never Had a Christmas Tree. By Gloria Teles Pushker, illustrated by Judith Hierstein. Pelican, 1991.
In the small southern town where the Belfer family lives, they are the only Jews and they proudly share their Hanukkah customs with their Christian neighbors, having a party, telling the story of Hanukkah, eating latkes, and playing dreidel. (Grades K-3) 1991 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

Chanukah on the Prairie by Bert E. Schuman, illustrated by Rosalind Charney Kaye. UAHC (URJ) Press, 2002.
An immigrant family leaves Poland and settles in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where a thriving Jewish community welcomes them. Based on real events. (Grades 2-4) 2004 SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR BOOK

It's a Miracle! A Hanukkah Storybook by Stephanie Spinner, illustrated by Jill McElmurry. Atheneum, 2003.
Those bedtime stories that Grandma Karen tells Owen during Hanukkah remind him of people he knows. At a family celebration on the eighth night, he finds out for sure that the story characters are his very own relatives! (Grades 1-3) 2004 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

For Older Kids

Four Sides, Eight Nights: A New Spin on Hanukkah by Rebecca Tova Ben-Zvi, illustrated by Susanna Natti. Roaring Brook Press, 2005.
A delightful exploration of the science, traditions, customs, and meaning of Hanukkah, with the dreidel used as a sort of road map. (Grades 3-6) 2006 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

Alexandra's Scroll: The Story of the First Hanukkah by Miriam Chaikin, illustrated by Stephen Fieser. Henry Holt, 2002.
A young female scribe records the political, social, and religious complexities of the Maccabean world in this believable portrait of a Judean family at war. (Grades 4-7) 2003 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

The Very Best Hanukkah Gift by Joanne Rocklin, illustrated by Catherine O'Neil. Delacorte Press, 1999.
Daniel, an awkward eight-year-old middle child, anticipates Hanukkah with anxiety, but unexpected events bolster his self-esteem and his status within the family. (Grades 2-5) 2000 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

The Magic Menorah: A Modern Chanukah Tale by Jane Breskin Zalben, illustrated by Donna Diamond. Simon & Schuster, 2001.
An encounter with a Yiddish-spouting genie named Fishel changes Stanley's mind about Hanukkah and family traditions. (Grades 3-6) 2002 AJL NOTABLE BOOK



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ERIC A. KIMMEL'S HANUKKAH BOOKS

Winner, Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award, 2004

The Chanukkah Guest by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Giora Carmi. Holiday House, 1990.

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. (Grades K-3) 1990 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD WINNER

A Hannukah Treasury by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Emily Lisker. Henry Holt, 1998.

This compendium of stories, songs, poetry, recipes, legends, history and tradition makes for a wealth of information about Hanukkah. The bright acrylic paintings add style and energy. (Grades K-3) 1998 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. Holiday House, 1989.

Relates how Hershel outwits the goblins that haunt the old synagogue and prevent the village people from celebrating Hanukkah. (Grades K-5) 1990 SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARD

The Jar of Fools: Eight Hanukkah Stories from Chelm by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein. Holiday House, 2000.

Too delicious to be enjoyed only at Hanukkah, these effervescent tales show how the wisdom of fools might be the wisest kind of all! (Grades 3-6) 2001 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

The Spotted Pony: A Collection of Hanukkah Stories by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. Holiday House, 1992.

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. (Grades 3-6) 1993 SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARD

When Mindy Saved Hanukkah by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Barbara McClintock. Scholastic, 1998.

New York City's historic Eldridge Street shul is the setting for this story about a family of little people, akin to "The Borrowers," who live within its walls. When the synagogue's cat, Antiochus, threatens to ruin the family's Hanukkah, Mindy and Grandpa reenact the story of the Macabbees to save the holiday. (Grades K-3) 1998 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

Zigazak! A Magical Hanukkah Night by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Jon Goodell. Doubleday, 2001.

A pair of demons makes mischief in the shtetl of Brisk but the rabbi puts an end to their escapades. This jolly story transmits the traditional message that sparks of holiness can be found in unlikely places. (Grades K-3) 2002 AJL NOTABLE BOOK

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