

BOOKS

Adelman, Penina, Ali Feldman and Shulamit Reinharz. *The JGirl's Guide: The Young Jewish Woman's Handbook for Coming of Age*. Jewish Lights, 2005. For the teen or pre-teen girl who asks "Where do I fit in?," this includes lessons based on *mitzvat*, interpretations of text, diary entries, and the views of young girls on contemporary issues. Ages 12-18.

Adler, Tzivia. *The Sefer Torah Parade*. Illustrated by Ito Esther Perez. HaChai, 2005. Set in an observant neighborhood and very attractively illustrated, this simple story focuses on concrete details and shows the importance of the *Torah* to Jews everywhere. Ages 3-7.

Avrech, Robert. *The Hebrew Kid and the Apache Maiden*. Seraphic Press, 2004. A coming of age story and historical adventure set in the untamed Southwest in the late 1800s. Strong Jewish values pervade the story, published by a new modern Orthodox press. Ages 11-14.

Borden, Louise. *The Journey That Saved Curious George*. Illustrated by Allan Drummond. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 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. Ages 9-12.

Chaikin, Miriam. *Angel Secrets: Stories Based on Jewish Legend*. Illustrated by Leonid Gore. Henry Holt, 2005. The author blends modern *midrash*, biblical sources and Jewish mysticism to write these tales about various angels who have been given specific tasks to perform on earth. The impressionistic illustrations complement the fanciful text. Ages 9-12.

Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half Human, and the Good Nazi*. Atheneum, 2005. Flashing back to 1930s Germany, this powerful Holocaust novel chronicles the experiences of a boy who discovers to his horror that he is half-Jewish, a *mischling* or mongrel. The moral dilemma that climaxes the novel makes it perfect for discussion. Ages 12-16.

Delano, Marfé Ferguson. *Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein*. National Geographic, 2005. Meet the 20th century's most important scientist in this very attractive book and learn that the man with a big brain also had a big heart. Delano achieves a stunning balance between words and sepia-toned photos. Ages 10 and up.

Dion, L.N. *The Opposites of My Jewish Year*. Illustrated by Julie Olson. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2005. This beautifully illustrated book teaches opposites through the basic symbols and texts of Jewish holidays. For example, on Rosh Hashanah the *shofar* is loud and prayer is soft; on Hannukah the *shamash* is high, while the candles are low. Board book for ages 1-4.

Finkelstein, Norman. *Ariel Sharon*. Lerner, 2005. An objective look at Sharon's life from his early years as a soldier to his service as Prime Minister. Black and white photographs and a timeline add insight; a selected bibliography points readers to additional resources. Ages 12 and up.

Fridman, Sashi. *The Last Pair of Shoes*. Illustrated by Seva. Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, 2005. "You can never be too poor to help someone in need" is the message of this warmly told and illustrated story about an old shoemaker. Ages 8-11.

Greenfeld, Howard. *A Promise Fulfilled: Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion and the Creation of the State of Israel*. Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2005. An engrossing account of three very different men who were central to the founding of modern Israel. Ages 12-15.

Groner, Judyth Saypol and Madeline Wikler. *My First Hebrew Word Book*. Illustrated by Pepi Marzel. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2005. Sprightly and colorful illustrations of everyday items, animals and places are realistically drawn, making conversational Hebrew come alive. Ages 2-6.

Had Gadya: A Passover Song. Illustrated by Seymour Chwast. Roaring Brook Press, 2005. Superb illustrations of the traditional Passover *seders* song tell several stories at once. Ages 11 and up.

Klein-Higger, Joni. *Ten Tzedakah Pennies*. Illustrated by Tova Leff. Hachai, 2005. By counting backwards from ten to one, this simple story shows a little boy's pennies being used for *tzedakah*. Ages 2-4.

Krimitz, Esther Nisenthal and Bernice Steinhart. *Memories of Survival*. Hyperion, 2005. Lavishly embroidered scenes of a mother's Polish childhood and wartime survival are accompanied by her daughter's text. This outstanding collaboration adds a moving personal dimension to Holocaust study. Ages 11 and up.

Kropf, Latifa Berry. *Happy Birthday, World: A Rosh Hashanah Celebration*. Illustrated by Lisa Carlson. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2005. How you (a child) celebrate your birthday is juxtaposed with how we (the Jewish people) celebrate Rosh Hashanah. The important symbols and customs of the holiday are taught through simple text accompanied by beautiful illustrations. Board book for ages 1-4.

Kropf, Latifa Berry. *It's Sukkah Time!* Photos by Tod Cohen. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2005. Colorful photographs capture preschoolers enjoying this harvest holiday. Preschool-age 7.

Kushner, Lawrence. *In God's Hands*. Jewish Lights, 2005. Based on a Jewish folktale about the *challahs* in the Ark, this richly illustrated story teaches that God works through humans in the making of miracles. Ages 7-10.

Lasky, Kathryn. *Broken Song*. Viking, 2005. A historical novel set in the Russian Pale of Settlement in the late 1800s that shows the conditions that led to massive Jewish emigration from Russia. A companion to Lasky's 1981 award winning book, *The Night Journey* Ages 11-15.

Littman, Sarah Darer. *Confessions of a Closet Catholic*. Dutton, 2005. An eleven year-old searches for answers about her family's commitment to Judaism and her need for an authentic Jewish identity. Despite a serious subject, this has the humor and child-appeal of Judy Blume's *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*. Ages 11-14.

Markel, Michelle. *Dreamer From the Village: The Story of Marc Chagall*. Illustrated by Emily Lisker. Henry Holt, 2005. From childhood, Marc saw things that others did not see; although it took many years, his unique artistic vision, made accessible here to children, was recognized and rewarded. Ages 7-11.

Marzollo, Jean. *Ruth and Naomi*. Little, Brown, 2005. 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. Ages 3-7.

Millman, Isaac. *Hidden Child*. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005. The story of the author-illustrator's boyhood as a child hidden from the Nazis, this is simply but elegantly told. Large pages of text and photographs alternate with evocative sketches done in muted tones. Ages 12-15.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *The King of Mulberry Street*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2005. 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. Ages 11-14.

Newman, Leslea. *The Eight Nights of Chanukah*. Illustrated by Elivia Savadier. Harry A. Abrams, 2005. With artful simplicity, the author and illustrator combine their talents to show the joyful eight days of a multi-generational, multi-cultural Hanukkah celebration. Ages 3-5.

Olswanger, Anna. *Shlemiel Crooks*. Illustrated by Paula Goodman Koz. Junebug Books/NewSouth, 2005. Offbeat, funny and told in a highly inflected "Yinglish," this story about the attempted theft of Passover wine is set around the turn of the 20th century in St Louis and based on an incident in the life of the author's great-grandfather. Ages 10 and up, including adults.

Philip, Neil. *The Pirate Princess and Other Fairy Tales*. Illustrated by Mark Weber. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2005. Some of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav's most famous stories are retold for children and illustrated in jewel-like tones. This would be good as a read-aloud or a read-alone. Ages 8-12.

Poole, Josephine. *Anne Frank*. Illustrated by Angela Barrett. Knopf, 2005. This engrossing and beautifully illustrated book provides both a general introduction to the Holocaust and to Anne Frank's life as it is known through her diary. Omitting frightening details, it can be read by children who are just beginning to ask questions about the Holocaust. Ages 8-12.

Rauschwerger, Diane Levin. *Dinosaur on Hanukkah*. Illustrated by Jason Wolff. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2005. Colorful pictures and a short, rhyming text show what happens when a messy dinosaur visits a little boy during Hanukkah. Ages 2-6.

Rogasky, Barbara. *The Dybbuk: A Version*. Illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. Holiday House, 2005. This classic Jewish tale of love, loss and possession takes place in a Chasidic community in Eastern Europe and is illustrated with suitably dark and eerie artwork. Ages 12 and up.

Rosenbloom, Fiona. *You Are SO Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah!* Hyperion, 2005. Stacy Friedman un-invites her best friend to her bat mitzvah when she sees her kissing the boy Stacy likes. With the help of her rabbi, she matures enough to make up with her friend and to perform *mitzvat*, which include convincing a male friend to help her younger brother become less dorky. Ages 11-14.

Ruben, Susan Goldman. *The Flag with Fifty-Six Stars: A Gift from the Survivors of Mauthausen*. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Holiday House, 2005. When Mauthausen was liberated by American troops, the prisoners presented the soldiers with an American flag that they had made in secret, mistakenly adding an extra row of stars. Based on interviews with survivors and liberators and superbly illustrated. Ages 11-14.

Russo, Marissabina. *Always Remember Me: How One Family Survived World War II*. Atheneum, 2005. The author-illustrator tells the story of her own family's Holocaust experience, focusing on the four strong Jewish women who most influenced her life. The story is reassuring and relatively non-threatening, making it appropriate for somewhat younger children than is usual for illustrated Holocaust stories. Ages 8-11.

Sachs, Marilyn. *Lost in America*. Roaring Brook Press, 2005. A French teenager, the only one of her family to survive the Holocaust, joins relatives in America, determined to make the kind of life for herself that her parents would have wanted. Written with humor and many details of the post-war period, this sequel to *A Pocket Full of Seeds* will appeal mostly to girls. Ages 12-14.

Schroeder, Peter W. and Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand. *Six Million Paper Clips: the Making of a Children's Holocaust Memorial*. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. Now a moving documentary film called "Paper Clips," this is the remarkable true story of the residents of rural Whitwell, Tennessee and their involvement in helping their middle school students collect six million paper clips to symbolize the Jews lost in the Holocaust. Ages 11-14.

Schwartz, Howard. *Before You Were Born*. Illustrated by Kristina Swarner. Roaring Brook Press, 2005. This beautifully written and illustrated book is adapted from *Mikdash Tanhuma* and told with the intimacy and simplicity of a bedtime story. Preschool-age 7.

Shulevitz, Uri. *The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. Known only from the book he wrote about his travels, Benjamin left Spain in 1159 and spent 14 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. Ages 11-14.

Silverman, Erica. *Sholom's Treasure: How Sholom Aleichem Became a Writer*. Illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. A sparkling introduction to the famous author of many popular Yiddish stories of 19th century European *shtetl* life, with lively illustrations and a story that lends itself to being read aloud. Ages 6-9.

Stein, Tammar. *Light Years*. Knopf, 2005. A young woman's story alternates between Israel and Virginia, revealing the experiences of a contemporary Israeli teen, the pain and guilt she feels over the loss of a friend through terrorism and her courage as she gradually heals and forges new bonds. Ages 14-18.

Taback, Simms. *Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayde Told Me*. Atheneum, 2005. Brimming with humor and bursting with life, this dynamically illustrated collection of anecdotes and short stories about *kibitzers*, *shlemiels*, *noodniks*, *meshugeners* and other Yiddish types is reminiscent of Taback's award winning *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. Ages 8-12.

Zolkower, Edie Stoltz. *It's Tu B'Shevat*. Illustrated by Richard Johnson. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2005. Written in verse, this story follows a young boy as he grabs a shovel, digs a hole and plants a tree on Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees. The boy and his loving family enjoy the fruits and shade of the tree. Board book for ages 1-4.

VIDEOS, DVDs & CDs

Ancient Israel and Jerusalem. New Dimension Media, n.d., VHS, 25 minutes. Computer animation portrays the history of Jerusalem, including King Solomon's expansion of the city captured by King David and his building of the Temple, the city's destruction by the Babylonians, and later, its rebuilding by Herod the Great. Ages 14 and up.

Emperors and Rebels: The Story of Hanukah, Part 1: Antiochus Epiphanes. Ergo, 2003, VHS, 47 minutes, color. A chronicle of the lives and times of Antiochus and Judah Maccabee, the son of Mattathias, during the Hasmonean Revolt. Features digitally recreated combat scenes and famous paintings to provide background to the struggle. Ages 13 and up.

Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews. Wellspring, 2004, VHS, 80 minutes, color. A film that portrays the plight of Ethiopia's Jewish community and explores the politics that led to their amazing modern day exodus. Ages 14 and up.

Giving Voice: Today's Kids Get Real About Bias: Survivor and Witness First-Person Testimonies. Films for the Arts and Humanities, 2004, VHS, 30 minutes, color. Seven young people with cameras share their emotional responses to viewing Holocaust survivor testimony. How the participants grew, changed and rethought their own assumptions over the course of the project is shown. Teaching guide available. Also available is *Giving Voice: Today's Kids Get Real About Bias*. Ages 13 and up.

The Way Home: Stories of Forgiveness. Faith and Values Media, 2004, VHS, 15 minutes, color. There are three stories of personal and communal reconciliation on this film, including one about Postville, the town in Iowa where Hasidic Jews established a meat packing plant and changed the culture of the town. Ages 13 and up.

Israel 4 Kids. Take a virtual tour of Israel with Srulik, a popular sandal-footed Israeli cartoon character. Children and educators alike can learn about the country's cool internet technologies, watermelon-picking robots, life-saving cancer drugs and other joint American-Israeli projects. This fun, interactive CD-ROM will make Israel come alive! Ages 8-12.

WEBSITES

www.meltonarts.org The new website of The Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction is devoted to Jewish arts education. The resources and tools provided on this website are aimed at furthering the teaching and study of Jewish and Israeli culture through the various art forms.

www.elliatorah.com Ellie's Torah Trope Tutor helps children and adults learn to chant from the Torah.

www.israel4kids.org A cleverly designed, kid-friendly website intended to teach English speakers about vibrant Israel.

www.echinuch.org A database of learning materials for Torah educators.

www.learnisrael.org A website designed to combat the proliferation of biased materials about Israel and to promote positive, pro-Israel information instead.

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