

Temple Israel 4th-6th Grade Boys Book Club

Suggested Reading 2006-2007

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(unless otherwise noted, all books are in-print & available in paperback as of September 2006)

CONTEMPORARY:

Konigsburg, E. L. *The View from Saturday*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996. ISBN: 0689817215 (reprint edition). \$5.99

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond when they represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Book-on-tape available. (1998/1999 and 2004/2005 Selection)

Kornblatt, Marc. *Understanding Buddy*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2001. ISBN: 068983215X. \$16.00 (HC)

When a new classmate stops speaking because of the sudden death of his mother, fifth grader Sam tries to befriend him and risks destroying his relationship with his best friend Alex. Available in large print. (2001/2002 and 2003/2004 Selection)

HISTORICAL FICTION:

Avrech, Robert J. *The Hebrew Kid and the Apache Maiden*. Los Angeles: Seraphic Press, 2005. ISBN: 0975438212. \$14.95 (HC)

In the years following the Civil War, twelve year old Ariel Isaacson and his family, Jewish immigrants from Russia, are kicked out of their Arizona town by an anti-Semitic mayor and townspeople, and are forced to embark on a difficult and dangerous journey through the unsettled Arizona territory.

Brown, Don. *The Notorious Izzy Fink*. New Milford, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2006. ISBN: 1596431393. \$16.95 (HC)

13-year-old Sam Glodsky lives among the rough-and-tumble gangs on the streets of New York's Lower East Side in the 1890's. When he falls in with fearsome gangster Monk Eastman, he joins an outrageous scheme to rescue Eastman's prize racing-pigeon from a cholera-ridden steamship quarantined in the harbor.

Cohen, Barbara. *Thank You, Jackie Robinson*. New York: Beech Tree Books, 1997. ISBN: 0688152937 (reprint edition). \$4.99

The story of a friendship between a young Jewish boy and an elderly black man; both share a love for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the first baseman Jackie Robinson. (1998/1999 Selection)

Doyle, Brian. *Angel Square*. Vancouver: Groundwood Books, 2004. ISBN: 0888996098 (reprint edition). \$6.95

In 1945 in Ottawa's Lowertown, Tommy, also known as The Shadow, and two of his friends, one French Canadian, one Irish, try to find out who attacked the father of their Jewish friend Sammy.

Glaser, Linda. *Bridge to America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN: 0618563016. \$16.00 (HC)

Waiting for his father to send their family money from America in order to get out of their small village in northern Poland in 1920, nine-year-old Fivel does his best to keep the family safe as rumors of the Cossacks planned return do more pogroms becomes a more frightening reality with each passing day.

Kaplan, Kathy Walden. *Dog of Knots*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdman's, 2004. ISBN: 0802852742. \$7.50

In Haifa, Israel at the onset of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, nine-year-old Mayim struggles with questions about her future, particularly mandatory service in the Israeli army, but finds comfort in friends, relatives, and a very old, stray dog with no name. (2005-2006 Selection)

Karwoski, Gail Langer. *Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2004. ISBN: 1561453692. \$7.95

In this exciting, adventurous, and touching story, readers experience the devastation of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake through the eyes of 13-year-old Jacob Kaufman, a Jewish boy who lives in a boarding house with his father and younger sister. (2005-2006 Selection)

Levine, Gail Carson. *Dave at Night*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1999. ISBN: 0064407470. \$5.99

Eleven-year-old Dave is orphaned and placed in New York's Hebrew Home for Boys. Eager to run away, Dave takes nighttime sojourns into nearby Harlem, where he's befriended by an elderly fortune teller and a wealthy African-American girl. Book-on-tape available. (2000/2001 and 2003/2004 Selection)

Melnikoff, Pamela. *Plots and Players*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1996. ISBN: 0827605765. \$9.95

In 1594 young Shakespeare is working on a new play, *The Merchant of Venice*, amid growing anti-Jewish sentiment in England. Three Jewish children try to save Queen Elizabeth's Jewish physician when he is falsely accused of spying for Spain.

Melnikoff, Pamela. *The Star and the Sword*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society; 1994. ISBN: 0827605285. \$8.95

Benedict and Elvira, two orphaned Jewish children in 12th century England, are befriended by Robin Hood and the outlaws in the Sherwood Forest, and join a Crusader knight on a journey to London.

Nislick, June Levitt. *Zayda Was a Cowboy*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2005. ISBN: 0827608179. \$9.95

When a Jewish grandfather comes to live with his son's family, he relates his experiences fleeing Eastern Europe for America, his adventures as a cowboy, and his assimilation into American culture.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *The King of Mulberry Street*. New York: Random House, 2005. ISBN: 0385746539. \$15.95 (HC)

After being sent alone on ship by his mother to New York City to start a new life in 1892, young Dom, an Italian Jew, must find a way to survive in the new world with the rest of the homeless children in Manhattan's Five Points in order to become the success his mother was certain he would be. 2006 Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner.

Rosen, Sybil. *Speed of Light*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN: 0689841515. \$4.99

In 1956, Audrey's father helps an African-American friend join the segregated police force of Blue Gap, Virginia. The town's angry response makes Audrey aware of the prejudice her own family faces as Jews in the South and causes her aunt, a Holocaust survivor, to relive terrifying moments from her past. 1999 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner. (2000/2001 Selection with author visit)

Shalant, Phyllis. *When Pirates Came to Brooklyn*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2002. ISBN: 0525469206. \$16.99 (HC)

When 6th grader Lee Bloom's best friend moves to Florida, she ventures out into her Brooklyn neighborhood to make new friends. She meets Polly Burke and Eileen and Timmy Kilkenny who invite her to join their adventure to save Peter Pan from pirates who are descending onto Avenue J from their ship in the clouds. But, will Polly and Lee's friendship survive despite the bigotry and prejudice around them? (2004/2005 Selection)

WORLD WAR II & THE HOLOCAUST:

Attema, Martha. *Hero*. Custer, WA: Orca Book Publishers, 2003. ISBN: 155143251X. \$4.99

Hero is an inspiring and up lifting story of a hidden child during the Holocaust.

Drucker, Malka & Michael Halperin. *Jacob's Rescue*. New York: Yearling Books, 1994. ISBN: 0440409659 (reprint edition). \$4.99

In answer to his daughter's questions, a man recalls the terrifying years of his childhood when a brave Polish couple, Alex and Mela Roslan, hid him and other Jewish children from the Nazis. Based on a true story.

French, Jackie. *Hitler's Daughter*. New York: HarperCollins, 2003. ISBN: 0060086521. \$15.99 (HC)

After hearing a fictional tale about Hitler's daughter, Mark, an Australian boy, wonders what it would be like if someone he loved and trusted turned out to be evil. (2005/2006 Selection)

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Lily's Crossing*. New York: Delacorte, 1997. ISBN: 0440414539 (reprint edition). \$5.50

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently. Book-on-tape and Book CD available. See also *Willow Run*.

Levine, Karen. *Hana's Suitcase*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2003. ISBN: 0807531480. \$15.95 (HC)

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. (2003/2004 Selection)

Maguire, Gregory. *The Good Liar*. New York: HarperCollins Juvenile Books, 2002. ISBN: 0064408744 (reprint edition). \$5.95

To the dismay of their devout and gentle mother, three French brothers delight in telling outrageous lies. When Jews are hidden in their village after the fall of Paris, lying is no longer a game.

Matas, Carol. *Daniel's Story*. New York: Scholastic, 1993. ISBN: 0590465880. \$4.99

Daniel, whose family suffers as the Nazis rise to power in Germany, describes his imprisonment in a concentration camp and his eventual liberation. (2001/2002 Selection)

Propp, Vera W. *When the Soldiers Were Gone*. New York: Putnam's, 1999. ISBN: 0698118812. \$4.99

After the German occupation of the Netherlands, Benjamin leaves the Christian family with whom he had been living and reunites with his real parents who returned from hiding.

BIOGRAPHY:

Berkow, Ira. *Hank Greenberg: Hall-Of-Fame Slugger*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2001. ISBN: 0827606850. \$9.95

A biography of the powerful home-run hitter who became the first Jewish player elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. (2000/2001 Selection)

Borland, Kathryn & Helen Speicher. *Harry Houdini: Young Magician*. New York: Aladdin Library, 1991. ISBN: 0689714769 (reprint edition). \$4.99

A biography of Harry Houdini, concentrating on his earlier years and the training that made him a master magician and escape artist. (1998/1999 Selection)

Grey, Vivian. *Moe Berg: The Spy Behind Homeplate*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1996. ISBN: 0827606206. \$9.95.

A major league baseball player fluent in nine languages, an Ivy League scholar, and an attorney, Moe Berg led a life of mystery and intrigue as a top secret spy who helped the United States win the race against Nazi Germany to build the atomic bomb. He used baseball as a cover to make significant intelligence contributions to the United States. (1999/2000 and 2003/2004 Selection)

Milgrim, Shirley. *Haym Salomon: Liberty's Son*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1975. ISBN: 082760739. \$9.95

Here is the little-known story of the selfless and patriotic Jewish merchant who raised money to finance the American Revolution and the new nation.

Sofer, Barbara. *Ilan Ramon: Israel's Space Hero*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 2004. ISBN: 1580131158. \$6.95

A biography of Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, who died when the space shuttle Columbia exploded during re-entry in 2003.

Speregen, Devra Newberger. *Yoni Netanyahu: Commando at Entebbe*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1995. ISBN: 0827606427. \$10.95

Few rescue missions have succeeded like "Operation Thunderbolt," the Israeli plan led by Yoni Netanyahu on July 4, 1976, to rescue 105 hijacked Jewish passengers held captive in Uganda's Entebbe Airport. (1999/2000 Selection)

OTHER RESOURCES:

Odean, Kathleen. *Great Books for Boys*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1998. ISBN: 0345420837

More than 600 books that will make boys want to read!

Tuffs, Allan C. *And You Shall Teach Them to Your Sons: Biblical Tales for Fathers and Sons*. New York: UAHC Press, 1997. ISBN: 080740635X

A project of the North American Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, this is a collection of Bible tales that can be used as a vehicle for discussions between fathers and sons about the fundamental issue surrounding Jewish masculinity.