

Temple Israel 4th-6th Grade Girls 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:

Blume, Judy. *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.* New York: Laurel Leaf, 1991.
ISBN: 0440904196 (reissue edition). \$5.50

Everything is changing for Margaret Simon—she is dealing with adjusting to a new school, her religious identity, and puberty. (1998/1999, 2002/2003, and 2005/2006 Selection)

Bush, Lawrence. *Emma Ansky-Levine and Her Mitzvah Machine.* New York: UAHC Press, 1991. ISBN: 0807404586. \$7.95

For her 12th birthday, Emma receives a special Mitzvah Machine, which helps her discover her Jewish identity and the true meaning of becoming a Bat Mitzvah. (2001/2002 Selection)

Ferber, Brenda A. *Julia's Kitchen.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.
ISBN: 0374399328. \$16.00 (HC)

When her mother and younger sister are killed in a house fire, eleven-year-old Cara struggles to find a way to deal with her emotions and to reach out to her grieving father.

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. (1998/1999 Selection)

Littman, Sarah. *Confessions of a Closet Catholic.* New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2005. ISBN: 0142405973. \$5.99

To be more like her best friend, eleven-year-old Justine decides to give up Judaism to become Catholic, but after her beloved, religious grandmother dies, she realizes that she needs to seek her own way of being Jewish. 2006 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner. (2005/2006 Selection)

HISTORICAL FICTION:

Blume, Judy. *Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself.* Yearling, 1986. ISBN: 0440482534
(reissue edition). \$5.99

While spending the winter of 1947-48 in Miami Beach with her family, ten-year-old Sally makes up stories, casts herself in starring roles in movies, and encounters a sinister stranger.

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. See also *Willow Run*. (1998/1999 Selection)

Hesse, Karen. *A Time of Angels*. New York: Hyperion, 2000. ISBN: 0786812095. \$5.95
Sick with influenza during the 1918 epidemic and separated from her two sisters, a young Jewish girl living in Boston relies on the help of an old German man, and her visions of angels, to get better and to reunite herself with her family.

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. (2004/2005 Selection)

Matas, Carol. *The War Within: A Novel of the Civil War*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001. ISBN: 0689843585. \$4.99

In 1862, after Union forces expel Hannah's family from Holly Springs, Mississippi, because they are Jews, Hannah reexamines her views regarding slavery and the war. (2001/2002 Selection)

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)

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

After the friendship between Lee and Polly begins, one filled with imaginary pirates plaguing their 1960 Brooklyn homes, they find themselves struggling to stay together when their mothers' bigotry stands in the way. (2004/2005 Selection)

Weil, Sylvie. *My Guardian Angel*. Translated by Gillian Rosner. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2004. ISBN: 0439576814. \$16.95 (HC)

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. 2004 Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner.

IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE:

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.

Hesse, Karen. *Letters from Rifka*. New York: Henry Holt, 1992. ISBN: 0140363912. \$5.99

In letters to her cousin back in Russia, 12-year-old Rifka tells of her journey to America in 1919, from the dangerous escape over the border through Europe and across the sea to the new country. 1992 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner. (2000/2001 Selection)

Hurwitz, Johanna. *Faraway Summer*. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1998. ISBN: 0380732564. \$4.95

In the summer of 1910, Dossi, a poor Russian immigrant from the tenements of New York, spends two weeks with the Meade family on their Vermont farm. See also *Dear Emma* and *The Unsigned Valentine*.

Kaplan, Kathy Walden. *Dog of Knots*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdman's, 2004. ISBN: 0802852599. \$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. (2004/2005 Selection)

Lasky, Kathryn. *Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, A Jewish Immigrant Girl*. New York: Scholastic, 1998. ISBN: 0590029738. \$9.95 (HC)

Twelve-year-old Zippy, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, keeps a diary account of the first eighteen months of her family's life on the Lower East Side of New York City in 1903-1904. Part of the "Dear America" series. Discussion guide available at www.scholastic.com. (1999/2000 Selection)

Levitin, Sonia. *Journey to America*. New York: Aladdin Library, 1987. ISBN: 0689711301 (reprint edition). \$4.99

In 1938 Lisa Platt, her mother and sisters attempt to flee Nazi Germany to Switzerland, and then to America where her father waits for them. The Platt family's story is continued in *Silver Days* and *Annie's Promise*. (2004/2005 Selection)

Matas, Carol. *Sparks Fly Upward*. New York: Clarion Books, 2002. ISBN: 0618159649. \$15.00 (HC)

In 1910, when a family of Russian Jews move from Saskatchewan to Winnipeg, Canada, twelve-year-old Rebecca must live with a Christian family temporarily and struggles with anti-Semitism, confusion about God, and changing relationships with family and friends. (2002/2003 and 2005/2006 Selection)

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.

Oswald, Nancy. *Nothing Here But Stones*. New York: Henry Holt, 2004. ISBN: 0805074651. \$16.95 (HC)

In 1882, ten-year-old Emma and her family, along with other Russian Jewish immigrants, arrive in Cotopaxi, Colorado, where they face inhospitable conditions as they attempt to start an agricultural colony, and lonely Emma is comforted by the horse whose life she saved.

Tal, Eve. *Double Crossing*. El Paso: Cinco Puntos, 2005. ISBN: 0938317946. \$16.95 (HC)

In 1905, as life becomes increasingly difficult for Jews in Ukraine, eleven-year-old Raizel and her father flee to America in hopes of earning money to bring the rest of the family there, but her father's health and Orthodox faith become barriers.

Taylor, Sydney. *All-Of-A-Kind Family*. New York: Yearling Books, 1980. ISBN: 0440400597 (reissue edition). \$5.50

A heartwarming story of five Jewish girls living with their parents in New York City at the turn of the century. See also *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*. (2000/2001 Selection)

WORLD WAR II & THE HOLOCAUST:

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. (2003/2004 Selection)

Kerr, Judith. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. New York: Paper Star, 1997. ISBN: 0698115899 (reissue edition). \$5.99

The story of a young Jewish girl growing up in Berlin during World War II.

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)

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. New York: Dell Publishing, 1989. ISBN: 0440227534. \$5.99

Annemarie Johansen, a young Danish girl growing up during the Nazi occupation, is forced to summon up all her courage to help her best friend, a young Jewish girl. 1989 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner.

Mazer, Norma Fox. *Good Night, Maman*. New York: Harper Trophy, 2001. ISBN: 0064409236. \$5.99

After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in New York and hope to be reunited with their parents. (2002/2003 Selection)

BIOGRAPHY:

Dublin, Anne. *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2004. ISBN: 1896764827. \$11.95

The true story of Fanny “Bobbie” Rosenfeld, a Canadian Jewish athlete, who participated in the 1928 Olympics when resistance to women in sports was prevalent. 2004 Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner. (2005/2006 Selection)

OTHER RESOURCES:

Bauermeister, Erica and Holly Smith. *Let’s Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14*. New York: Penguin Books, 1997. ISBN: 0140257322

Organized by reading level, this guide includes 375 recommendations for readers ages 2-14.

Cooper-Mullin, Alison and Jennifer Marmaduke Coye. *Once Upon A Heroine: 450 Books for Girls to Love*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1998. ISBN: 0809230208

Organized by age group, this guidebook includes descriptions of 450 books chosen by the authors and their daughters based on recommendations from teachers, librarians, and book reviews.

Dodson, Shireen. *The Mother-Daughter Book Club*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1997, ISBN: 0060952423

A practical step-by-step book, filled with stories, anecdotes and reading lists, that will inspire parents to start a reading club with their children.

Dodson, Shireen. *100 Books for Girls to Grow On*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1998. ISBN: 0060957182

Lively descriptions of the most inspiring books for girls including discussion questions and ideas for book-inspired activities, crafts, and field trips.

Odean, Kathleen. *Great Books for Girls*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997. ISBN: 034540484X

Descriptions of over 600 books to inspire today’s girls and tomorrow’s women.