

TRIED & TRUE FAVORITES FOR KIDS BOOK CLUBS

4TH-5TH GRADE GIRLS:

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.

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.

Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. *Out of Many Waters.* New York: Walker, 1988. ISBN: 0802774016. \$8.95

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. See also *One Foot Ashore*.

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.

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.

Levine, Anna. *Running on Eggs.* Chicago, IL: Cricket Books/Front Street, 1999. ISBN: 0812628756. \$15.95 (HC)

A tentative friendship develops between an Israeli girl from a kibbutz and an Arab girl from a nearby village when both become members of a track team.

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.

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.

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*.

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.

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.

Rocklin, Joanne. *Strudel Stories*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1999. ISBN: 0440415098 (reprint edition). \$4.50

Seven generations of a Jewish family hear stories of their family history, all told while making apple strudel.

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.

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.

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*. A companion guide is available at www.jewishlibraries.org.

4TH-5TH GRADE BOYS:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Schur, Maxine Rose. *The Circlemaker*. New York: Puffin, 1996. ISBN: 0140379975. \$5.99

Czar Nicholas's soldiers enter all the Russian villages and seize the Jewish boys for the military, but Mendel, only twelve years old, knows he is too young to fight and makes a desperate attempt to reach the border in order to flee to safety.

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?

6TH-8TH GRADE GIRLS:

Banks, Lynne Reid. *One More River*. New York: Avon, 1993. ISBN: 0380715635 (reprint edition). \$5.99

14-year-old Lesley is upset when her parents abandon their comfortable life in Canada for a kibbutz in Israel prior to the 1967 war. See also *Broken Bridge*, the sequel.

Bat Ami, Miriam. *Two Suns in the Sky*. Chicago: Cricket Books/Front Street, 1999. ISBN: 0812629000. \$6.99

After being moved from Yugoslavia to a refugee camp in New York during World War II, one Jewish boy is befriended by a local girl, but when their special friendship turns to romance, their parents demand they end the relationship.

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.

Levitin, Sonia. *The Return*. New York: Fawcett Books, 1991. ISBN: 0449702804 (reprint edition). \$5.99

Desta 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. 1987 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner.

Meyer, Carolyn. *Drummers of Jericho*. San Diego: Gulliver Books Paperbacks, 1995. ISBN: 0152001905. \$6.00

As a Jew, Pazit Trujillo objects when she and the rest of the Jericho High School band are instructed to play hymns and march in a cross, turning the whole town against her, except for one brave friend.

Newman, Leslea. *Fat Chance*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. ISBN: 0399227601. \$5.99

In a series of diary entries, thirteen-year-old Judi recounts her struggles to lose weight, hide her bulimia from her mother, find a boyfriend, and decide on a profession.

Rabb, M.E. *Missing Persons: The Rose Queen*. New York: Speak/Penguin Group USA, 2004. ISBN: 0142500410. \$5.99

The first titles in the *Missing Persons* mystery series introduce teen orphans Samantha and Sophie Shattenberg, Jewish sisters who flee their Queens, New York, home after their father's death to escape their stepmother, who intends to abscond with the family money and ship Sophie off to boarding school. A few felonies later, the girls settle into a new life, and new identities, in tiny Venice, Indiana. See also: *The Chocolate Lover*, *The Venetian Policeman*, and *The Unsuspecting Gourmet*.

6TH-8TH GRADE BOYS:

Bat Ami, Miriam. *Two Suns in the Sky*. Chicago: Cricket Books/Front Street, 1999. ISBN: 0812629000. \$6.99

After being moved from Yugoslavia to a refugee camp in New York during World War II, one Jewish boy is befriended by a local girl, but when their special friendship turns to romance, their parents demand they end the relationship.

Mack, Tracy. *Birdland*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. ISBN: 0439535913. \$5.99

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.

Meyer, Carolyn. *Gideon's People*. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 1996. ISBN: 0152003045. \$6.00

Torn between youthful rebellion and their traditional heritages, two boys from very different cultures--one Amish, one Orthodox Jew--discover just how similar they really are.

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 Coxe. *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.

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

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

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