

**SUKKOT AND SIMHAT TORAH READING FOR
PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY GRADE CHILDREN**

Recommended books from the Ratner Media and Technology Center
of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
216-371-8288 www.jecc.org

Cohen, Barbara. **MOLLY'S PILGRIM.** NY: Yearling Book, 1993. This endearing story links Sukkot and Thanksgiving through the school experiences of an immigrant child. The video is also available.

Cooks, Roberta. **GITTEL AND THE BELL.** Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1987. Gittel, who has got in trouble for ringing the town bell for the wrong reasons, finds the stolen Torah whose disappearance just before Simhat Torah has filled the town's people with despair. Now she rings the bell for the right reason.

Gellman, Ellie. **TAMAR'S SUKKAH.** Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1988. All the children in Tamar's neighborhood have something to contribute to her sukkah. A board book version is available.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **NIGHT LIGHTS.** San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1995 and New York: UAHC Press, 2002. An overnight in the sukkah helps Daniel conquer his fear of the dark. There are two versions, the first with dramatic, fanciful illustrations, the second with gentle, realistic illustrations.

Groner, Judyth and Wikler, Madeline. **ALL ABOUT SUKKOT.** Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1998. An attractive format enhances this simple summary of the meaning and rituals of Sukkot, accompanied by a retelling of Peninnah Schram's "The Big Sukkah."

Kropf, Latifa Berry. **IT'S SUKKAH TIME!** Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. A real Jewish preschool class builds a sukkah with their teachers and celebrates Sukkot. Charming color photographs and a simple text make this perfect for reading to preschoolers.

Lepon, Shoshana. **HILLEL BUILDS A HOUSE.** Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1993. Of all the houses a little boy loves to build, the sukkah is his favorite.
A board book version is available.

Polacco, Patricia. **TIKVAH MEANS HOPE.** NY: Doubleday, 1994. After a fire destroys their sukkah, an elderly couple and their friends find symbols of hope in the ashes.

Rael, Elsa Okon. **RIVKA'S FIRST THANKSGIVING.** NY: Margaret K. McElderry, 2001. Rivka's immigrant family is skeptical about whether Jews should celebrate Thanksgiving. So is the last word in these matters, the rabbi. A little girl who sees the parallels between

Pilgrims and Jewish immigrants convinces them that Thanksgiving is indeed a holiday for Jews! Winner of a Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Rael, Elsa Okon. **WHEN ZAYDEH DANCED ON ELDRIDGE STREET.** NY: Simon and Schuster, 1997. This story about Simhat Torah and the relationship between a little girl and her stern grandfather is set around New York's historic Eldridge Street Shul. Winner of a Sydney Taylor Award.

Schram, Peninnah. **THE BIG SUKKAH.** Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1986. A big family with a small house finds a way to invite many guests into their sukkah. A favorite!

Vorst, Rochel Groner. **THE SUKKAH THAT I BUILT.** New York: Hachai, 2002. Written in the style of "This is the house that Jack built," this amusing story shows a boastful little boy and his patient family building their sukkah.

Weilerstein, Sadie Rose. **K'TONTON'S SUKKOT ADVENTURE.** Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1993. This is an updated version of a story about the Jewish Tom Thumb.

Youdovin, Susan Schaalman. **WHY DOES IT ALWAYS RAIN ON SUKKOT?** Niles, IL: Albert Whitman, 1990. When the chief angel gave each holiday a gift, Sukkot cried because he thought he had been forgotten.

Compiled in 2004

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