

## A SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS FROM ORTHODOX PUBLISHERS, Updated 2005

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### Books for Preschoolers

Adelman, Dina Nechama. **Bedtime**. New York: Hachai, 2003. Dovid can't sleep until Mommy comforts him with the reassurance that Hashem is always with him. A sensitive book for preschoolers, especially those with sleep problems.

Benenfeld, Rikki. **I Go to the Doctor**. New York: Hachai, 2004. A story about going to the doctor that is intended to alleviate a child's fears.

Benenfeld, Rikki. **I Go to School**. New York, HaChai, 1998. Since toddlers often spend at least part of their day in day care or other group settings, this book carries the message that school is fun.

Benenfeld, Rikki. **Let's Go to Shul**. New York, HaChai, 2002. A little boy and girl go to shul with their parents on Shabbat. Important objects, rituals, and officials are identified in Hebrew and Yiddish, with a glossary giving the English translation.

Buchward, Dr. Claire. **The Mitzvah-Go-Round**. New York, Mesorah Publications, 2002. A rhyming story about mitzvot performed by zany characters around the globe.

Cisner, Naftali. **Count with Mendel**. New York, Judaica Press, n.d. Holiday symbols represent the numbers one to ten as Mendel counts. A simple, cheerful board book.

Cisner, Naftali. **Get Ready for Shabbos with Mendel**. New York, Judaica Press, n.d. Mendel, a little boy with sidelocks, wearing a turban and caftan, is shown catching a fish, baking challah and welcoming guests in this simple board book.

Emerman, Ellen. **Just Right: The Story of a Jewish Home**. New York, Hachai, 1999. What makes a Jewish home "just right?" Rivkie's new house feels cold and strange until the little girl and her family fill it with Shabbat candlesticks, Jewish

books, their *hanukiyot* and, finally *mezuzot*. This is a warm-hearted look at an observant family and how they welcome G-d into their home.

Emerman, Ellen. **Is it Shabbos Yet?** Rev. Ed. New York, Hachai, 2001. Join Malkie and her mommy as they prepare for Shabbos. New illustrations.

Finkelstein, Ruth. **Big Like Me! A New Baby Story.** New York, HaChai, 2001. When a new sister is born, little Benny tries to be a big brother to her. His efforts to teach the infant what his bigger brother teaches him are warmly portrayed.

Grossblatt, Ruby M. **Who's That Sleeping on My Sofabed?** New York, HaChai, 1999. Yoni learns about the mitzvah of *hachnosas orchim*, welcoming guests.

Kosman, Miriam R. **Red, Blue and Yellow Yarn: A Tale of Forgiveness.** New York, HaChai, 1996. The story of several generations of children who make mistakes and their loving grandmothers who forgive them.

Nutkis, Phyllis. **When the World Was Quiet.** New York: Hachai, 2004. Describes the silence in the natural world when G-d gave Israel the Torah.

Paluch, Beily. **Braid the Challah.** New York: Hachai, 2004. A very simple action rhyme about making challah in preparation for Shabbat.

Paluch, Beily. **I Am a Torah.** New York: Hachai, 2004. A very simple action rhyme about a Sefer Torah in board book format.

Rosenfeld, Dina. **Dovid the Little Shepherd.** New York, Hachai, 1996. A story from the childhood of King David which helps explain why he became king.

Rosenfeld, Dina. **Five Alive!** New York: Hachai, 2003. A rhymed story about how young children can enjoy the holidays by using their sense of taste, sight, touch, hearing, and smell.

Rosenfeld, Dina. **A Little Girl Named Miriam.** New York, HaChai, 2001. Little Miriam speaks up time and time again to save the Jews of *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) from Pharaoh's evil decrees. Miriam and her mother, Yocheved, are identified with the midwives, Puah and Shifra.

Rosenfeld, Dina. **Why the Moon Only Glows**. New York, HaChai, 1992. A midrash on the account in Genesis 1:16 of "the two great lights." It is told in verse by a father to his children and is gently illustrated in pastels.

Sollish, Ari. **A Touch of Passover**. New York: Merkos L'inyonei Chinuch, 2004. Touch a bumpy matzo, rub the silken afikomen bag, feel a fuzzy green leaf in this board book for the youngest child. There is also a version in Spanish.

Vorst, Judith Groner. **The Sukkah That I Built**. New York, HaChai, 2002. A little boy brags about the sukkah he is building while his hard-working family looks on. Finally he acknowledges that it is a group project.

Waysman, Dvora. **My Jewish Days of The Week**. New York, HaChai, 2001. A rhyming story about each day of the week leading up to Shabbat.

Zytman, Leah. **The Bravest Fireman**. New York, HaChai, 1998. This story begins as Ari, praying that Hashem will keep everyone safe, watches fire fighters extinguish a blaze in a near-by house. A young child's faith is portrayed with sincerity.

### Books for the Primary Grades

Blatt, Evelyn Mizrahi. **More Precious than Gold**. New York, HaChai, 2002. An easy-to-read chapter book about a devout Spanish-Jewish family who leave their comfortable home in Spain in 1492 because "mitzvot and Torah are more precious than gold."

Friedman, Rivka. **The Yarmulke, Kippah, Coppel Book**. New York, HaChai, 1998. A story in rebus form that conveys the importance of wearing a kippah. Some activities are included.

Gottlieb, Yaffa Leba. **"Uh - Uh. Not Now," said The Cow**. Brooklyn, Aura Press, 1996. A wise cow helps her new owner learn about Shabbat.

Hodes, Loren. **Thirty One Cakes**. New York: Hachai, 2003. A rhyming story about the mitzvah of hashavat aveidah, returning lost property.

Krohn, Genendel. **I Wish I Were King**. New York: Feldheim, 2003. A story about contentment, showing how a stonecutter is never happy with the increasingly high station that he attains until he realizes that being a stonecutter is the best of all.

Krohn, Genendel. **Who Is the Builder?** New York: Feldheim, 2002. A little boy searches for the world's creator in this retelling of a midrash about the biblical Abraham.

Levin, C. **The Fixer.** Breslov Research Institute, 1996. A Rav Nachman story about a man who is satisfied with having what he needs and trusts in God that everything will turn out well in the end.

Raanan, **Stories Straight from Avi's Heart.** New York: Feldheim, 2004. A large, nicely illustrated book of advice for parents and stories for children about emotions. The emotions covered include disappointment, anger, jealousy, happiness, fear, worry, sadness, shyness, etc.

Rosenfeld, Dina. **Where Does Food Come From? A Bracha Discovery Book.** New York, HaChai, 2002. A large book with laminated pages aimed at teaching young children that G-d is the source of food, not the supermarket. Gives the different blessings for various types of food.

Rosenfeld, Dina. **Yossi and Laibel Hot on The Trail.** New York, HaChai, 1991. In this rhyming story, brothers Yossi and Laibel follow a trail of good deeds, going out of their way to help every Jew," no matter what and no matter who". Part of a popular series.

Sandman, Rochel. **Perfect Porridge: A Story about Kindness.** New York, HaChai, 2000. Bubbe Hinda hatches a scheme to assist the sick and the poor, and Zayde Mendel offers to help, foregoing his daytime Torah study in order to cook huge batches of porridge to feed the hungry.

Shollar, Leah Pearl. **The Key Under the Pillow.** New York: Hachai, 2004. In the retelling of a story from the Talmud, honoring parents is the theme. The story also concerns the birth of a red heifer.

Shollar, Leah. **The Thread of Kindness, A Tzedaka Story.** New York, HaChai, 2000. Elijah gives six years of plenty to a poor farmer and his family. When he observes how they use it to help the needy, he allows them to keep it.

Steinburg, Bracha. **Just Like...Me!** New York: Feldheim, 2001. A little girl tries to be just like her schoolmates but learns the importance of being herself.

Stillerman, Marci. **Nine Spoons, A Chanukah Story.** New York, HaChai, 1998. With her grandchildren gathered round, Oma recalls how a group of concentration

camp prisoners risked punishment to fashion a hanukkiyah out of spoons. Written and illustrated with sensitivity to the age of the reader. A Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner.

Wieder, Joy Nelkin. **The Great Potato Plan**. New York, HaChai, 1999. An easy to read, short chapter book about the author's family, who were stranded in Warsaw when World War I broke out.

Wieder, Joy Nelkin. **The Secret Tunnel**. New York: Hachai, 2004. An easy-to-read historical adventure set in the time of King Chizkiyahu when a tunnel was dug to supply Jerusalem with a steady supply of fresh drinking water in the event of an Assyrian siege. Aspects of everyday life are blended with historical details in an appealing way and the characters are believable.

Zelcer, Draizy. **Once Upon a Time**. New York, HaChai, 2001. A rhymed story that gives children practice in telling time while it shows how time is precious in the lives of observant Jews.

### Books for Elementary Grade Readers

Avrech, Robert. **The Hebrew Kid and the Apache Maiden**. Los Angeles: Seraphic Press, 2005. A rousing historical adventure story with strong Torah values, set in Arizona at a time when settlers, outlaws, the U. S. Cavalry, and Apaches all contended for control. A family of observant Jews are the main characters. For teens as well.

Bloom, Tzivia. **The Dreams Come True Club**. New York: Feldheim, 2004. Danny, Shuki, Rafi, Gavi, and Yoav are hard at work making people's dreams come true. Follow them throughout Eretz Yisarel, on a hunt for a missing heirloom, long-lost friends, and a rare stamp.

Citron, Sterna. **Hirsh's Secret**. Los Angeles, Kerem, 1996. Hirsh, the *troger*, carries heavy loads to earn enough money to feed his beloved goats whose milk helps to nourish the hungry widows and children in his town.

Citron, Sterna. **Shepherd Boy Who Loved God, A Baal Shem Tov Story**. Los Angeles, Kerem, 1996. A young shepherd boy teaches the great Baal Shem Tov how to pray by his simple devotion to G-d.

Citron, Sterna. **Zushe's Find: A Story about the Rebbe Reb Zushe.** Los Angeles, Kerem, 1996. Zushe's good deed helps a widow marry off her daughter but angers the suspicious people of the town.

Ganz, Yaffa. **The Adventures of Jeremy and Hedy Levy.** New York: Pitspopany, 2003. A newly illustrated, revised edition of stories about an irrepressible brother and sister and their non-stop escapades.

Ganz, Yaffa. **Savta Simcha, Uncle Nechemya, and the Very Strange Stone In the Garden.** New York: Feldheim, 1992. Is it a listening stone, a sleeping stone, a Jerusalem stone, or an Eretz Yisrael Stone? Solve the mystery with Savta Simcha and Uncle Nechemya. There are several other books in this series.

Yasgur, Batya Swift. **The Secret of the Grandfather Clock.** Brooklyn, Aura Press, 1998. A Bina Gold Mystery. Bina is drawn into a web of intrigue as she tries to discover the connection between a stolen antique clock and a frail Holocaust survivor.

Zakutinsky, Ruth **The Case of The Missing Baseball Cards.** Brooklyn, Aura Press, 1996. Yosef discovers who stole the baseball cards and puts himself in danger when he plans a way to expose the thief.

### Books for Teens

Feuerman, Ruchama King. **Secret of The Hotel Dela Rosa.** Brooklyn, Aura Press, 1996. A Bina Gold Mystery. Bina and Tammy get involved with the Israeli Secret Service and Arab terrorists as they solve this suspenseful case. Grades 6 - 8.

Kranzler, Gerson. **Chanan and His Violin: And Other Stories.** New York, Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, 1999. A collection of adventures and inspirational tales that takes the reader from King Solomon's palace to the dangerous streets of Prague during WW 11. Grades 5-8.

Meiseles, Shayna. **The Bat Mitzvah Club: Debbie's Story.** New York: Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, 2001. Eleven year old Debbie discovers her Jewish soul and the full meaning of becoming a Bat Mitzvah in a club her parents insist she join. And she even finds time to practice swimming.

Lewenstein, Essie. **The Case of The Lost Identity**. Brooklyn, NY, Aura Press, 1998. When Bina Gold, the teenaged sleuth, finds a girl who has lost her memory, she knows she must help her.

Lowinger, Malka. **The Mystery of The Matching Lockets**. Brooklyn, NY, Aura Press, 1998. A Bina Gold Mystery. Bubby Gold's sister has been missing since WW 11. On a trip to Poland, Bina searches the countryside on a dangerous mission to find her.

Pollack, Gadi. **Once Upon a Time**. New York: Feldheim, 2004. Twelve parables from the Dubno Maggid, illustrated in graphic novel style.

Shalom, A. **Through the Flames of Aleppo**. New York, Mesorah, 2002. Artsroll Youth Series. Anti-Jewish riots break out in Syria after the State of Israel is established. A Syrian-Jewish boy experiences many dangers as he goes to get help for his pregnant mother.

**Talks and Tales**. Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, 2002. A compilation of monthly reading material including Jewish festival information, historical events, lessons from the weekly sidrah, and stories.

Vogiel, Eva. **Facing the Music**. New York, Judaica Press, 2002. In this sequel to *Invisible Chains* and *Friend or Foe?*, 12 year old twins, separated at age three during WW 11, are reunited.

Vogiel, Eva. **Friend or Foe?** New York: Judaica Press, 2001. An English boarding school for Orthodox girls is the setting of this suspenseful story about a mysterious neighbor who seems to be trying to shut down the school.

Vogiel, Eva. **Invisible Chains**. NY: Judaica Press, 2000. A story of two Orthodox sisters at a boarding school in England and a caring faculty that helps them solve their problems.

Weinfeld, Chaya Baila. **An Unexpected Detour and Other Stories**. New York, Judaica Press, 2003. A collection of short stories centered around the Jewish holidays from the days of antiquity to modern time.

Winkler, Gershon. **The Sacred Stones: The Return of the Golem**. New York, Judaica Press, 1991. Readers will be swept along in an adventurous story as the ancient breastplate of the *Kohen Gadol* (high priest), affixed with twelve sacred

stones, is discovered--and stolen. As the threat of war looms, the saintly Maharal of Prague, Rabbi Yehudah Loewy ben Bezalel, is compelled to recreate the awesome Yossele the Golem to rescue the Jews and avert disaster.

Yaffe, Rachel. **Lost and Found and Other Stories**. New York: Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, 2002. Seven short stories from various periods in Jewish history. Several have strong women as the main characters.

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