

Books and Stories for the Weekly Parsha
Compiled by Kathe S. Pinchuck, MLIS

BREISHIS (GENESIS)

Breishis

Blaivas, C & Z. *Our Beautiful World: The Six Days of Creation*. Lakewood, New Jersey: Israel Bookshop, 2005. ISBN: 1-931681-91-0. This board book combines illustration and photography to depict the activity on the days of creation. The seventh day, with a table set for the Sabbath and text that reads, "We make Kiddush, have challah, eat special foods and go to shul!" makes it particularly suitable for Orthodox readers (PK-K)

Greene, Rhonda Gowler. *The Beautiful World that God Made*. Illustrated by Anne Wilson. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2002. ISBN: 0-8028-5213-0. The story of creation is presented with a cumulative rhyme that peaks with creation of man and then whittles back until it ends with a picture of earth – "the beautiful world that God made." Curving illustrations in vibrant colors make it seem as if the world were spinning. (K-2nd)

Levin, Miriam Ramsfelder. *In the Beginning*. Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. Kar-Ben Copies, Inc., 1996. ISBN: 0-929371-94-1. A young boy named Adam has a day that mimics the days of creation. He wakes up alone in the dark; turns on the light and sees that his room is a mess; then he puts it in order. Adams moves on to look at plants, his bird, and his fish, and then goes in to wake his parents, whose bedspread looks like a garden. (K-2nd)

Noach

Kuskin, Karla. *The Animals and the Ark*. Illustrated by Michael Grenjiec. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000. ISBN: 0-689-83095-5. The animals on the ark get bored and start fighting and crying, but the sun comes out just in time. A cute rhyme and illustrations that fill the pages with color and activity make this a good choice to reading out loud. (PreK-2nd)

Lepson, Shoshana. *Noah and the Rainbow*. Illustrated by Aaron Friedman. Brooklyn, New York: Judaica Press, Inc., 1993. ISBN: 1-88-582-04-X. Colorful illustrations and cute rhymes combine to tell the story of Noah and his family as they build the ark, gather the animals, take care of them during the flood, and see the rainbow. (PK-2nd)

Rouss, Sylvia. *The Littlest Pair*. Illustrated by Holly Hannon. Jerusalem: Pitspopany Press, 2001. ISBN: 1-930143-17-6. As the animals gather and begin to enter the ark, they are all upset when the termites appear, fearing they will eat the boat. But as the flood starts and the deck of the ark gets slippery, the termites help by chewing some extra wood and providing sawdust for traction. The lesson is to accept each other because everyone is God's creature. Colorful pictures of animals with expressive faces compliment the rhyming text. (PreK-2nd)

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. *Naamah, Noah's Wife*. Illustrated by Bethanne Andersen. Woodstock, Vermont: Skylight Paths, 2002. ISBN: 1-893361-56-X. While Noah builds the ark and gathers the animals, his wife collects fruits, vegetables, seeds, and nuts, so she can plant after the flood. The colorful illustrations, simple words and board book format make this a good choice for the youngest patrons. (Pre-K to 2nd)

Singer, Isaac Bashevis. *Why Noah Chose the Dove*. Pictures by Eric Carle. Translated by Elizabeth Shub. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1974. ISBN: 0-374-38420-7. The dove sits quietly while all the other animals boast about themselves, so Noah picks her to be his

messenger and scout out dry land. Carle's colorful illustrations of animals are a perfect complement to the text. (K-3rd)

Spier, Peter. *Noah's Ark*. New York: Doubleday, 1977. ISBN: 0-385-09473-6. A poem translated from the Dutch at the beginning of the book are the only words as creative illustrations depict Noah, the flood, the animals, and after the flood, the rainbow. (PreK-3rd)

Lech Lecha

Rosenfeld, Dina. *A Little Boy Named Avram*. Drawings by Ilene Winn-Lederer. Brooklyn, New York: Hachai Publishing, ISBN 0-922613-08-7. Young Avram's deduction that there is one God is presented with colorful illustrations. As the moon and sun rise and set and he sees the animals, birds and nature, he realizes there is one God who created all of it. (K-2nd)

Vayeira

Lepson, Shoshana. *The Ten Tests of Avraham*. Illustrated by Aaron Friedman. New York: The Judaica Press, 2001. ISBN: 1-880582-61-9. "Lively new rhyme and adorable full-color illustrations bring to life the story of Avraham. The inspiring text and pictures will add to young readers' enjoyment and understanding of Avraham's life and the many difficult challenges he face and overcame." (K-2nd)

Hutchins, Pat. *The Doorbell Rang*. New York, Greenwillow Books, 1986. ISBN: 0-688-09234-9. When Ma makes cookies for tea, there are plenty for Victoria and Sam, until more and more guest come, and they share with everyone. Finally Grandma came with an enormous tray of cookies to share with friends.

Chayei Sara

Toldos

Vayeitzei

Greengard, Alison. *Jacob's Travels*. Illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. Berkeley, California: EKS Publishing Co., 2006. ISBN 0-939144-53-0. Taken from Chapters 25 through 35 of Genesis, this is a very condensed version of Jacob's life between the time he leaves Isaac and Rebecca and when he again encounters his brother Esau. While the text is Biblical Hebrew, many words and sentences have been omitted. The colorful illustrations depict key events in the story and bring it to life. The book includes an introduction, a literal translation and a glossary which includes pronunciation. It is more of an educational tool than literature. (2nd and up)

Vayislach

Veyeshev

Miketz

Vayigash

Vayechi

SHMOT (EXODUS)

Shmot

Bo

Beshalach

Yitro

Mishpatim

Terumah

Titzaveh

Ki Tisa

Vayakel

Pekudei

VAYIKRA (LEVITICUS)

Vayikra

Tzav

Shemini

Miller, Deborah Uchill. *Fins and Scales*. Illustrated by Karen Ostrove. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 1991. ISBN: 0-929371-26-7. Yoni Katz and his family visit Israel and visit what looks like the shuk in Jerusalem. His grandmother gave him spending money, and they search for something to buy. The family learns about which foods are kosher, how to tell which animals, birds and fish are kosher, and not mixing dairy and meat products. At the end, Yoni decides what he really wants is a baby brother. Humorous illustrations and rhyming text make learning the Jewish dietary laws fun (K-2nd)

Tazria

Metzora

Acharei Mos

Kedoshim

Emor

Behar

Bechukosai

Bamidbar

Nasso
Beha'alotkha
Shelach
Korach
Chukas
Balak

Paterson, Katherine. *The Angel and the Donkey*. Illustrated by Alexander Koshkin. New York: Clarion Books, 1996. ISBN: 0-395-68969-4. Colorful illustrations complement the biblical story of Bilaam, who is hired to curse the Israelites and ends up blessing them. Bilaam's talking donkey saves him from a sword-bearing angel, who does have wings and a halo. (2nd-5th)

Pinchas
Matos
Massei
Devarim
V'etchanan
Eikev
Re'eh
Shoftim
Ki Teitzei
Ki Savo
Nitzavim
Yayeilech
Haazinu

V'zos Habracha

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Shadow of a Flying Bird*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1994. ISBN: 0-7868-2012-8. Based on *Midrash Rabbah* and taken from *The Folk Literature of the Kurdistan Jews*, imaginative and colorful illustrations depict the arguments of angels and different elements of nature, until God himself takes the soul of Moses with a kiss. The illustrated book format belies the themes of the book (5th-8th)