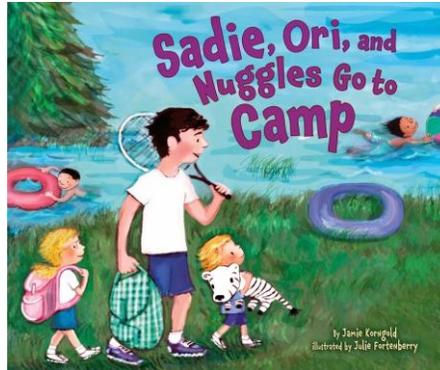




The Jewish Education Center Of Cleveland

2030 South Taylor Road • Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
 Phone (216) 371-0446 • Fax (216) 371-2523 • Web Site: www.jecc.org

Recommended Summer Reading for Jewish Kids



Please note:  indicates paperback format available... great for putting in a backpack and taking to camp, a vacation, or the beach!

Preschool and Kindergarten

Baker, Sharon Reiss. **All Kinds of Strong**. Illus. by Kris Wiltse. Two Lions, 2014.

Sadie Rose lives on a farm in a tight-knit community of Jewish immigrants. She is small and frail and her neighbors worry that she's not strong enough for life on a farm. But when there's a calamity and friends and family can no longer celebrate *Shabbat* in their neighbor's parlor, Sadie Rose comes up with an idea that proves that there are "all kinds of strong." *PJ Library offering.*

Gehl, Laura. **Hare and Tortoise Race across Israel**. Illus. by Sarah Goodreau. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2015.

Two good friends, Hare and Tortoise, race from Tel Aviv to the Dead Sea, enjoying the unique culture and geography of Israel along the way. *PJ Library offering.*

Kafka, Rebecca. **Alef is for Abba/Alef is for Ima**. Illus. by Constanza Basaluzzo. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2015.

From one side *ima* (the Hebrew word for mom that starts with *alef* in Hebrew) goes through a typical day with a mom and her little one doing all things that start with *alef*. While from the "flip side," *abba* (the Hebrew word for dad, which also starts with *alef*) does the same. The family meets in the middle. *PJ Library offering.*

Korngold, Jamie. **Mazel Tov!** Phot. by Jeff Finkelstein. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2015.

A photo journal, which is also a flip book, of two Jewish families as they welcome a new baby. On one side, read about the celebration for a baby boy, and then flip the book over for a story about welcoming a baby girl. Both sides are told from the perspective of a young girl welcoming her first sibling.

Korngold, Jamie S. Illus. by Julie Fortenberry. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben.

- **Sadie and the Big Mountain.** 2012.
On a *Shavuot* hike with her synagogue's preschool class, Sadie is not sure she will be able to climb a huge mountain. The sweet story has a message is that people do not have to climb high to reach God. *PJ Library offering.*
- **Sadie and the Lag B'omer Mystery.** 2014.
Sadie and her brother learn that Jewish people celebrate the holiday *Lag B'omer* by having picnics and bonfires. *PJ Library offering.*
- **Sadie, Ori, and Nuggles go to Camp.** 2014.
When older sister Sadie and her first-time camper brother Ori prepare to spend the summer at Jewish sleep-away camp, Ori wonders if he should bring his beloved stuffed animal Nuggles.

Snyder, Laurel. **Camp Wonderful Wild.** Illus. by Carlynn Whitt. Two Lions/Amazon Pub., 2013.
A colorful book with rhyming text that describes all of the fun kids have at Jewish summer camp. *PJ Library Offering.*

Grades 1 – 3

Aylesworth, Jim. **My Grandfather's Coat.** Illus. by Barbara McClintock. New York: Scholastic, 2014.

A tailor's very old overcoat is recycled numerous times over the years into a variety of garments and other uses. Another version of "Something from Nothing." Winner of the 2015 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Young Readers. *PJ Library offering.*

Berne, Jennifer. **On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein.** Illus. by Vladimir Radunsky. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2013.

Tells about the life of Albert Einstein and how he viewed the world differently. Illustrated with pencil drawings and a textured background. *PJ Library offering.*

Glaser, Linda. **Hannah's Way.** Illus. by Adam Gustavson. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2011.

Hannah is the only Jewish student in her school in rural Minnesota. Hannah worries that she will not be able to attend a class picnic on a Saturday, because she cannot ride in cars on the Sabbath. The entire class chooses to walk with Hannah so she can attend the picnic. Winner of 2013 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Younger Readers. *PJ Library offering.*

Glaser, Linda. **Stone Soup with Matzoh Balls: a Chelm Tale of Passover.** Illus. by Maryam Tabatabaei. Chicago: Albert Whitman, 2014.

In this version of "Stone Soup," an old man tricks the townspeople of Chelm into contributing the necessary ingredients for making a *seder* feast for all to share. *PJ Library offering.*

Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. **Speak Up, Tommy!** Illus. by Deborah Melmon. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2012.

Tommy, who recently moved to America from Israel, is teased because he does not know English well and so does not speak loudly, but when a police officer visits Tommy's class with a police dog that only understands Hebrew, his peers show him new respect.

Jules, Jacqueline. ***Never Say a Mean Word Again: a Tale from Medieval Spain***. Illus. by Durga Yael Bernhard. Bloomington, IN: Wisdom Tales, 2014.

When Samuel's father, the Jewish official to the Muslim ruler of Spain, hears Hamza, the tax collector's son, call Samuel names, he tells his son to make sure Hamza never speaks an unkind word to him again. Without meaning to, Samuel finds himself playing with Hamza day after day—a game of catch, a game of chess, and a game of marbles—until they have become friends. A 2015 Sydey Taylor Honor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers.

Jules, Jacqueline. ***Picnic at Camp Shalom***. Illus. by Deborah Melmon. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2011.

A sweet story about two girls who meet at a Jewish overnight camp. *PJ Library offering.*

Kimmel, Eric A. ***Scarlett and Sam: Escape to Egypt***. Illus. by Ivica Stevanovic. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2015.

Grandma Mina's Persian carpet sends twins Scarlett and Sam to Egypt in the time of Moses, where they come to understand that every Jew was part of the first *Pesah*, and just what made it different from all other nights. *PJ Library offering.*



Kimmelman, Leslie. Illus. by William Owl. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 2014.

Short chapters describe the adventures of a boy named Sam, a girl named Charlie, and Charlie's sister Sam who become neighbors and friends. *PJ Library offering.*

- **Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too).**
- **Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too) Return!**

Krasner, Barbara. ***Goldie Takes a Stand: Golda Meir's First Crusade***. Illus. by Kelsey Garrity-Riley. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2014.

Even at the age of nine, little Golda Meir, Israel's first female Prime Minister, was known for being a leader. As the president of the American Young Sisters Society in Milwaukee, she organizes her friends to raise money to buy textbooks for immigrant classmates. A 2015 Sydey Taylor Honor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers. *PJ Library offering.*

Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. ***Stork's Landing***. Illus. by Anna Shuttlewood. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2014.

When a migrating stork gets tangled in a net in the fish ponds on Maya's kibbutz, she and her father find a way to nurse it back to health and send it back into the wild. Set in Israel, one of the bird capitals of the world, with the highest number of migrating birds anywhere. *PJ Library offering.*

McGinty, Alice B. ***Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons***. Illus. by Jennifer Black Reinhardt. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2014.

Rabbi Benjamin's congregation presents him with a special holiday vest—and cooks him so much food that soon its buttons pop off. *PJ Library offering.*

Ofanansky, Allison. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben. *Nature in Israel*. Phot. by Eliyahu Alpern.

Photo journals that take place in Israel.

- **Harvest of Light.** 2008.
Set in Israel near Sfat, this is a simply told story about harvesting olives and pressing them into oil. The story culminates with using some of the oil for the celebration of *Hanukkah*. This could also be used with units on food and on life in Israel.

- **Sukkot Treasure Hunt.** 2009.
In Israel, a young girl and her family go on a scavenger hunt to find the "four species" they will use in their celebration of *Sukkot*. Includes facts about plants named in the story.
- **Cheesecake for Shavuot.** 2013.
Students in Israel plant wheat in the fall, watch it grow during the winter, and harvest it in the spring, threshing, winnowing, and grinding it until they have flour which, with cheese from petting zoo goats and strawberries they have grown, will make their *Shavuot* dessert.
- **What's the Buzz? Honey for a Sweet New Year.** 2011.
A class in Israel tours a farm to learn how honey is made and used to celebrate the Jewish New Year, *Rosh Hashanah*.
- **New Month, New Moon.** 2014.
In celebration of *Rosh Hodesh* (the first day of the new month), a family goes to the Negev Desert to camp out and observe the new moon. The changing phases of the moon are examined with their relationship to the Jewish calendar. *PJ Library offering.*

Pinson, Isabel. ***Bubbe's Belated Bat Mitzvah.*** Illus. by Valeria Cis. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2014.

With encouragement and *Torah* lessons from her great-granddaughter, *Bubbe* has a *bat mitzvah*.

Stampler, Ann Redisch. ***The Cats on Ben Yehuda Street.*** Illus. by Francesca Carabelli. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2013.

Mrs. Spiegel loves her two cats, while her grumpy neighbor Mr. Modiano, claims they are useless. Yet, when her cat goes missing, it is Mr. Modiano who searches the streets of Tel Aviv all night to find her. *PJ Library offering.*

Grades 4 – 6

Dauvillier, Loïc. ***Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust.*** Illus. by Marc Lizano; color by Greg Salsedo, trans. by Alexis Siegel. New York: First Second, 2014.

In graphic novel format, a grandmother recounts to her granddaughter her experiences as a hidden Jewish child in Nazi-occupied France during the Holocaust. The text and images provide a gentle introduction to the Holocaust for elementary grade and middle grade readers. Winner of 2015 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Older Readers.

Gephart, Donna. ***Death by Toilet Paper.*** New York: Delacorte Press, 2014.

Since seventh-grader Benjamin Epstein lost his father to cancer last year, things have been difficult for Ben and his mother. Medical expenses have cleaned out the family's savings and her job as a waitress doesn't bring in enough money to cover their rent. Compounding those troubles are a bully at school and Ben's grandfather, *Zeyde Jake*, who has Alzheimer's and comes to live with Ben and his mom. Each chapter begins with a fun-fact about toilet paper. A 2015 Sydney Taylor Honor Book Award Winner for Older Readers.



Deutsch, Barry. New York: Amulet Books.

- **Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword.** 2010.
Based on the author's online comic strip. A graphic novel in which Mirka, is an 11-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl, but clashes with her stepmother who wants her to do traditional girl activities such as knit. Mirka longs to battle dragons. The story is a mixture of fantasy and a look at the Orthodox culture.

- **Hereville: How Mirka Met a Meteorite.** 2012,
In this sequel to **How Mirka Got Her Sword**, Mirka challenges the meteor girl, who is her evil twin, to a three-part contest and the loser will be banished from Hereville forever!



Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. *American Girl Collection - Rebecca Rubin*. Middleton, WI: American Girl Pub. Illus. by Robert Hunt. Vignettes by Susan McAliley.

- **Meet Rebecca.** (2009).
This book introduces the Jewish character Rebecca Rubin, the nine-year-old daughter of Russian immigrants, who lives in NY in 1914. She dreams of becoming an actress, but her family thinks that is improper for a Jewish girl. When Rebecca learns that her cousins in Russia are in great danger and must escape to America, she puts on a show to raise money.
- **Rebecca and Ana.** 2009.
Rebecca's cousins from Russia immigrate to the United States and move into their cramped apartment. Rebecca is very protective of her cousin Ana at school as she struggles to learn English. However, trouble begins when the teacher encourages Ana to be in the production. Rebecca fears Ana's broken English will ruin the play.
- **Candlelight for Rebecca.** 2009.
Rebecca is troubled when her teacher assigns her class to make Christmas decorations. Her teacher says Christmas is a national holiday for all Americans to celebrate. Yet, Rebecca knows she is an American as anyone else, even without celebrating Christmas.
- **Rebecca and the Movies.** 2009.
Rebecca worries that her tenth birthday will be ruined because it falls during *Pesach*. Her birthday is saved, when her mother's cousin Max, an actor, takes her with him to a movie studio. There, she makes friends with an actress and a set carpenter.
- **Rebecca to the Rescue.** 2009.
While celebrating her brother's *Bar Mitzvah* on Coney Island, nine-year-old Rebecca Rubin disobeys by going off on her own, leaving her cousin Ana, a recent immigrant, alone.
- **Changes for Rebecca.** 2009.
Rebecca goes to the sweatshop, where Ana's brother and father work, and is horrified at the terrible conditions. Against her family's wishes, Rebecca goes to a strike at the sweatshop.
- **Secrets at Camp Nokomis: A Rebecca Mystery.** 2010.
Rebecca heads to Camp Nokomis, a week-long camp for girls that is subsidized by the City Children's Society as an effort to get the children out of the illness-infested-city into the pure country air. Instantly, she befriends a petite, quiet girl and confronts a bully.
- **A Bundle of Trouble: A Rebecca Mystery.** 2011. Written by Kathryn Reiss.
Rebecca begins to suspect that some children she meets in the park are involved in a string of kidnappings in her neighborhood. Relying on her *Bubbie's* advice that like Queen Esther, "a lady is bold when she needs to be," Rebecca helps the police catch the kidnappers. In the story, Rebecca and her family celebrate *Sukkot*.
- **The Crystal Ball.** 2012.
When Rebecca's neighbor Mr. Rossi sprains his wrist, Rebecca takes over the care and feeding of his pigeons. She then discovers a strange black pigeon with an eerie message warning Mr. Rossi of danger. She visits a fortune teller to learn if the warning is true.

- **A Growing Suspicion: A Rebecca Mystery.** 2014.
Rebecca and Ana are spending spring vacation volunteering at a Japanese garden in Brooklyn. Someone seems determined to damage the garden--and to cast suspicion on her and Ana.
- **The Glow of the Spotlight: My Journey with Rebecca. American Girl Beforever Journey.** 2014.
A choose your-own-adventure novel that brings readers to Rebecca's world in 1914. Readers can go with Rebecca to vaudeville show, put on a musical, or even sneak into a factory.



Meyerhoff, Jenny. **Sami's Sleepaway Summer.** NY: Scholastic, Inc., 2012.

Samantha "Sami" Bloom is going to a Jewish sleep away camp for the first time. She is nervous about being away from home, trying new food, and doing the super-scary ropes course. The rabbi at the camp teaches Sami that camp is special because of the friendships your form. *PJ Library offering.*

Nobleman, Marc Tyler. **Bill the Boy Wonder: the Secret Co-creator of Batman.** Illus. by Ty Templeton. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2012.

The Jewish writer and artist, Bill Finger, helped Bob Kane invent Batman. He dreamed up the Dark Knight's haunting origins and colorful nemesis. He did this in obscurity and was not recognized as the co-creator until after his death.

Polacco, Patricia. **The Blessing Cup.** New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.

A companion to **The Keeping Quilt** by Patricia Polacco. A single china cup from a tea set left behind when a Jewish family was forced to leave Russia for America is passed through the family's generations. A 2014 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner. *PJ Library offering.*

Rubin, Susan Goldman. **Jean Laffite: The Pirate Who Saved America.** Illus. by Jeff Himmelman. New York: Abrams Books, 2012.

An illustrated biography that tells the story of Jean Laffite, the Jewish pirate who helped the Americans win the battle of New Orleans against the British in 1815. Rubin describes Laffite's Sephardic background and early education as the youngest of eight children growing up in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. *PJ Library offering.*

Grades 6 - 9



Needle, Larry. **Homecourt: The True Story of the Best Basketball Team You've Never Heard of.** Philadelphia: Community Press, 2012.

Red Klotz was a Jewish boy from South Philly who dreamed of playing basketball. His Russian-Jewish father wanted his son to help him in his carpentry shop instead of playing ball. Red played for SPHAS (South Philadelphia Hebrew Association) teams. He created the Washington Generals to travel and compete with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Peacock, Shane. **The Boy Sherlock Holmes.** Toronto, CA: Tundra.

- **Eye of the Crow: His First case.** 2007.
In 1860s London, thirteen year old Sherlock Holmes is a misfit as a result of his parentage. His mother's aristocratic family disowned her when she married Sherlock's father, a poor Jew. Sherlock's wit helps him survive life on the rough streets of London.

- **Death in the Air: His Second Case.** 2008.
Sherlock investigates the mysterious death of a trapeze artist which he feels was not accidental.
- **Vanishing Girl: His Third Case.** 2009.
Sherlock attempts to solve the mysterious disappearance of a young socialite in Hyde Park. He is haunted by memories of his shattered family and his enemy, Malefactor.
- **The Secret Fiend: His Fourth Case.** 2010.
The week a Jewish man becomes Jewish Prime Minister of the British Empire, Beatrice, the hatter's daughter, appears at Sherlock Holmes' door late at night. She is terrified, claiming that she and her friend have just been attacked by the Spring Heeled Jack on Westminster Bridge.
- **The Dragon Turn: His Fifth Case.** 2011.
Sherlock Holmes and Irene Doyle are spectators in the audience of the magician Alistair Hemsworth where the magician produces a real dragon. After the show, Hemsworth is arrested for the murder of his rival magician, but ever-observant Sherlock is not sure that he is guilty.
- **Becoming Holmes: His Final Case.** 2012.
This final installment in the series paves the way for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." Malefactor, Sherlock's nemesis who readers discover will be later known as Moriarty, is up to criminal activity that could infiltrate the government.



Thor, Annika. NY: Random House.

- **A Faraway Island.** 2009.
Two Jewish girls from Vienna, twelve year-old Stephie Steiner and her eight-year-old sister Nellie, are sent to an island off the coast of Sweden to escape the Nazis. They are assigned to different families. While Nellie becomes accustomed to Swedish life easily, Stephie has a harder time adjusting.
- **The Lily Pond.** 2011.
Having left Nazi-occupied Vienna a year earlier, thirteen-year-old Jewish refugee Stephie Steiner adapts to life in the cultured Swedish city of Gothenburg, where she attends school, falls in love, and worries about her parents who were not allowed to emigrate.
- **Deep Sea.** 2015.
Now, sixteen-year-old Stephie is going to school on the mainland. Stephie enjoys her studies and rooming with her school friend, May. But life is only getting more complicated as she gets older.

Grades 9 – 12



Blankman, Anne. **Prisoner of Night and Fog.** New York: Balzer + Bray, 2014.

In 1930s Munich, the favorite niece of rising political leader Adolph Hitler is torn between duty and love after meeting a young Jewish reporter.



Kerr, Philip. **The Winter Horses.** New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.

Kalinka, a Ukrainian Jewish girl on the run from the Nazis, finds unlikely help from two rare Przewalski horses and their owner Max.



LaMarche, Una. ***Like No Other***. New York: Penguin, 2014.

Jaxon and Devorah inhabit different worlds despite living in the same Brooklyn neighborhood, but a fateful traps them together. For Devorah, who isn't allowed to talk to boys—and forget about non-Jewish black boys—this is a stressful test of her obedience to her faith, family, and Hasidic community. Devorah and Jaxon are opposites destined to be star-crossed and in love. A 2015 Sydey Taylor Honor Book Award Winner for Teen Readers.



Napoli, Donna Jo. ***Storm***. New York: Simon & Schuster for Younger Readers, 2014.

Having lost her family in a massive flood, sixteen-year-old Sebah finds her way onto Noah's ark, where she must conceal herself from Noah and his family until it is safe for her and another stowaway to slip away. Winner of 2015 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Teens.

North, Phoebe. New York: Simon & Schuster.

A futuristic dystopian (an oppressive society enacted by a totalitarian or authoritarian government) series which is about Terra a sixteen-year-old, who lives on Asherah, a Jewish city within a spaceship that left Earth five hundred years ago.

- ***Starglass***. 2013.
As Asherah heads for the planet Zehava (which the city's council aims to settle), Terra is drawn into a secret rebellion.
- ***Starbreak***. 2014.
The Asherah has finally reached Zehava. There, Terra finds harsh conditions and a familiar foe—Aleksandra Wolff, leader of her ship's rebel forces.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. ***Freedom Summer: the 1964 Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi***.

The civil rights project in Mississippi is examined, including information about the role of the Jewish activists.



Wein, Elizabeth. New York: Hyperion.

- ***Code Name Verity***. 2012.
The story begins in 1943 with the writings of "Verity," a female, British prisoner in the Ormaie, France Gestapo Headquarters. She is a Special Operations Executive, a spy, for the British. She was captured when the plane she was in, flown by her best friend Maddie Brodatt a young Jewish Scottish woman, was shot down in France.
- ***Rose Under Fire***. 2013.
A young American pilot, Rose Justice, is captured by Nazis and sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious women's concentration camp. There, she finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery, and friendship of her fellow prisoners.