Jewish Children's Books Too Good To Miss: 
Selected List of 1988 Titles
Association of Jewish Libraries, Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

I. Picture books and young readers (K-3)
This photo-essay contrasts the lives of two Jewish children, one American and one Russian, and how they practice their religion.

Dramatic pictures from young Shira's imagination interpret the actual places that Shira and her family visit in Israel.

This humorous retelling of the Bible tale in which the prophet Balaam is asked to curse the Jewish people emphasizes the wise donkey's point of view.

*Ganz, Yaffa. From Head to Toe: A Book about You. Feldheim.
This book about the body explains each system in clear and simple terms, and then discusses each within the framework of Jewish values, observances, and relationship to God.

In sepia-toned drawings that are as detailed as blueprints, the author/illustrator shows the succession of events in the familiar Bible story of Noah.

Justin begins Hebrew school without a Hebrew name. With the help of his classmates and an understanding rabbi, Justin acquires a name that is just right for him.

Although money is scarce this Hanukkah time, the generous family welcomes the mysterious peddler who leaves behind gifts and clues to his real identity.

**Polacco, Patricia. The Keeping Quilt. Simon & Schuster.
A handmade remembering quilt follows several generations of a Jewish family through life-cycle events, providing continuity of tradition from generation to generation.

Beni, a young bear, helps his mother make latkes, plays dreidel, recites Hanukkah prayers with his father, and shares the holiday with the neighboring animals.

II. Books for middle readers (grades 3-6)
This mini-encyclopedia about Israel contains geography, history, stories, recipes, projects, songs, vocabulary, and lots more.

Two children and their grandmother discover some old coins which lead them through a study of Jewish history from ancient times to today.

Set against the background of World War II, this latest in the stories of Molly and her friends focuses on Molly's school experiences and her struggles to grow up.

Cytron, Barry. Fire! The Library is Burning. Lerner.
This well organized book brings to life the disastrous fire and the rescue of thousands of books burned at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1966.

Elias, Miriam. And Then There Were Four. Philip Feldheim.
Four girls, all students at a girls' Jewish day school, share laughter and tears, friendship and fears as they become fast friends.

Isobel, daughter of Portuguese conversos, and her sister are kidnapped by the Inquisition and taken to Brazil. They escape, and Isobel finds safety in the company of the group of Jews who become the first Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam.

This is a simple, straightforward retelling of the Anne Frank story, with a chronology and an index.

Twelve-year-old David discovers the secret of his Holocaust survivor grandfather when they share a summer at Plum Island.

**Yolen, Jane. The Devil's Arithmetic. Viking Kestrel.
Hannah, aged twelve, bored by the repetition of the Passover seder, is transported back to the Polish town where her family originated and becomes Chaya, a victim of the Nazis.

III. Young adults (grades 7-12)
A large number of period photographs and quotations enhance this basic overview of Jewish immigration to the United States.

In this clear, well-organized biography, both history and biography are entwined to give a complete picture of Emma Lazarus and her times.

First-hand sources chronicle the stories of non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

This well organized, methodical, and comprehensive study of the Holocaust is enhanced by numerous thoughtfully chosen photographs.

This autobiographical novel tells the story of how a family of Jewish girls survives the war in Occupied France by being sheltered in a Catholic woman's residence.

*Honor Book
**Sydney Taylor Award Book