

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)

Bayar, Steven and Ilene. *Rachel and Mischa*. Kar-Ben.

This photo-essay contrasts the lives of two Jewish children, one American and one Russian, and how they practice their religion.

Carmi, Giora. *And Shira Imagined*. Jewish Publication Society.

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

Cohen, Barbara. *The Donkey's Story: A Bible Story*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

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*. Philip 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.

*Geisert, Arthur. *The Ark*. Houghton Mifflin.

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.

Gellman, Ellie. *Justin's Hebrew Name*. Kar-Ben.

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.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *Just Enough Is Plenty: A Hanukkah Tale*. Viking-Kestrel.

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.

*Zalben, Jane Breskin. *Beni's First Chanukah*. Henry Holt.

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)

Burstein, Chaya. *A Kid's Catalog of Israel*. Jewish Publication Society.

This mini-encyclopedia about Israel contains geography, history, stories, recipes, projects, songs, vocabulary, and lots more.

Burstein, Chaya. *The Mystery of the Coins*. Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

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

Chaikin, Miriam. *Friends Forever*. Harper & Row.

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.

*Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. *Out of Many Waters*. Walker.

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.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *Anne Frank: Life in Hiding*. Jewish Publication Society.

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

*Provost, Gary and Gail. *David and Max*. Jewish Publication Society.

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

**Yoien, 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)

Brownstone, David M. *The Jewish American Heritage*. Facts on File.

A large number of period photographs and quotations enhance this basic overview of Jewish immigration to the United States.

Lefer, Diane. *Emma Lazarus*. Chelsea House.

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

*Meltzer, Milton. *Rescue: the Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust*. Harper & Row.

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

Rogasky, Barbara. *Smoke and Ashes: the Story of the Holocaust*. Holiday.

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

Roth-Hano, Renee. *Touch Wood: A Girlhood in Occupied France*. Four Winds.

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 women's residence.

*Honor Book

**Sydney Taylor Award Book