



Summer Reading Recommendations: 2022

Grades K-1

Abraham's Search for God by Jacqueline Jules

In this creative legend, Abraham discovers something greater than idols of clay and stone and concludes that there is, in fact, one God.

Bagels from Benny by Aubrey Davis

While working in his grandfather's bakery, Benny learns the joys of giving and receiving, caring, and gratitude.

Chik Chak Shabbat by Mara Rockliff

Everyone in Goldie Simcha's apartment building knows it's Friday night when they smell her delicious Shabbat cholent. But one Friday night, Goldie doesn't feel well enough to cook. Her neighbors step up to make an unusual cholent for Shabbat – and soon Goldie will feel much better.

Clarence's Topsy-Turvy Shabbat by Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod

Clarence the Raccoon is trying to get ready for Shabbat. He keeps getting things ALMOST right...but not quite. Poor Clarence!

Sadie's Lag Ba'Omer Mystery by Jamie Korngold

Do you know what the holiday of Lag B'Omer is all about? To Sadie and Ori, this holiday is a mystery – so, they asked their grandfather who helped them solve it.



Kopecks for Blintzes: A Jewish Folktale for Shavuot by Judy Goldman

Chelm stories are known for their wacky humor and unexpected turns — and this one is no different. When Yankl and Gittele want to save up for blintzes for Shavuot, they come up with a plan — but then they “outsmart” themselves.

Do Unto Otters by Laurie Keller

When a family of otters moves in next to Mr. Rabbit, he’s a little nervous — he’s not sure if they’ll get along. But then he remembers the Golden Rule: Do unto otters as you would have otters do unto you! This book shows how treating others with respect is the basis of friendship, cooperation, and sharing.

And Shira Imagined by Giora Carmi

A young girl visits Israel and envisions the history of the sites she sees.

Hannah’s Way by Linda Glaser

In rural Minnesota in 1932, Hannah, a young orthodox Jewish girl, deals with being the new girl in class.

All-of-a Kind Family by Sydney Taylor

The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early 20th century.

Grades 2-4

Across the Alley by Richard Michelson

Abe's grandfather wants him to be a violinist; Willie's father assumes he'll grow up to be a baseball superstar. As it turns out, the boys are happiest when they exchange hobbies!

Cheesecake for Shavuot by Allison Ofanansky

Shavuot, the springtime harvest holiday, is coming up. Follow these Israeli schoolchildren as they harvest their own wheat, make their own goat cheese, and gather their own strawberries so they can make a traditional Shavuot treat: cheesecake!

The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey by Steve Sheinkin

In the fictitious town of Elk Spring, Colorado, circa 1870, Rabbi Harvey shares Talmudic wisdom, Jewish folktales, and a lot more through several short, humorous adventures.

The Always Prayer Shawl by Sheldon Oberman

When Adam emigrates from Czarist Russia to America, his grandfather gives him a prayer shawl by which to remember him. But it's not just any prayer shawl; it's the one Adam's own grandfather had given him. The shawl is a reminder that though the world around young Adam may change, the most important things remain constant.

Annushka's Voyage by Edith Tarbescu

Annushka and her sister have a long trip ahead of them because they are leaving Russia and heading for New York City. They're a little scared, but they're also excited. Plus, they can't wait to reunite with Papa in the New World. Turns out their Shabbat candlesticks have a role to play!

The Barefoot Book of Jewish Tales by Shoshana Boyd Gelfand

These traditional folk tales from various parts of the world offer simple, compelling messages in a uniquely Jewish context.

The Key from Spain: Flory Jagoda and Her Music by Debbie Levy

Young Flory's ancestors left Spain generations ago when it became unsafe for Jews. They took two important possessions: the key to their house in Spain, in hopes that one day they could return, and the music of their Sephardic heritage. When Flory grows up, she finds she must leave her home too, but the music of her ancestry follows her wherever she goes.

A is for Abraham, A Jewish Family Alphabet by Richard Michelson

From A to Z, this alphabet book incorporates Jewish concepts, historical figures, and rituals through short poems and longer explanatory text. Explored topics range from klezmer music and Albert Einstein to Purim and the Hebrew language.

A Coat for the Moon and Other Jewish Tales by Howard Schwartz and Barbara Rush

Each of the wonderfully rich folktales in this collection relates a critical Jewish value. Stories come from many traditions and places, including Yemen, Israel, Iraq, and France.

Escape! the Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleischman

Profiling his early years, personal life, and great accomplishments in show business, the story of Harry Houdini, the famous magician comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats, complete with index, photos, and author's notes

Grades 5-7

Letters from Cuba by Ruth Behar

Esther and her dad are in Cuba trying to save up enough so their family in Poland can join them. Esther really misses them, especially her sister, Malka, but how can a 12-year-old earn that kind of money?

The Length of a String by Elissa Brent Weissman

As the only Black girl at Hebrew school, Imani is less than curious about her adoptive family's Jewish history, and more than a little curious about her own. How can she find out about her birth family without hurting her mom's feelings?

The Six-Day Hero by Tammar Stein

War has broken out and Israel is surrounded by enemy armies. Motti's best friend has fled the country, and his class is huddling in a bomb shelter. Motti wants to be a hero like his soldier brother, Gideon, but what can a 12-year-old do?

Turtle Boy by M. Evan Wolkenstein

Will loves turtles but hates it when kids call him Turtle Boy. He also hates hospitals. So why does Will's mom think visiting a kid in the hospital will help bring him out of his shell — and what if he'd rather stay in it?

The Book of Secrets by Mat Tonti

A creature made of dough, a chilly giant, and an evil sorceress bent on stealing their greatest treasure! Will Rose and Ben defeat the bad guys and rescue their missing grandparents?

The Seventh Handmaiden by Judith Pransky

Handmaiden to the secretive Lady Esther, Darya has uncovered a treacherous plot that could endanger them all. Can she save the people she cares about and discover the truth about her past?



The Path of Names by Ari Goelman

Thirteen-year-old Dahlia's reluctance about attending Camp Arava changes to wonder as strange things begin to happen. Soon she is connected with David Schank, a student of the kabbalah, and the maze he built at the camp in the 1930s.

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919, and her own experiences when she is left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America.

Dave at Night by Gail Carson Levine

When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

The Golem and the Dragon Girl by Sonia Levitin

When Jonathan's family buys Laurel's house, this Jewish boy and Chinese American girl gradually become friends as they deal with ancestral spirits and changing family relationships.