



The Jewish Education Center Of Cleveland

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2014 Hanukkah Resource List



Denotes new books

Juvenile Literature

- Adler, David A. ***The Hanukkah Story***. Illus. by Jill Weber. New York: Holiday House, 2011. A straight re-telling of the story of how the Maccabeus beat King Antiochus' army. (For kindergarten – grade 3).
- Balsley, Tilda. ***Maccabee!*** Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2010. Rhyming text tells the story of how the Maccabees stand up to King Antiochus and his army. The story shows the Jews recovering Jerusalem, re-building the Temple and lighting the *menorah* that burned for eight days. (For kindergarten – grade 3).
- Brown, Barbara. ***Hanukkah in Alaska***. Illus. by Stacey Schuett. New York: Henry Holt & Co, 2013. A young girl in Alaska deters a moose from destroying trees with a *Hanukkah* treat. Includes facts about *Hanukkah* and the aurora borealis. (For kindergarten – grade 2).
- Cartwright, Amy. ***Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel***. New York: Penguin, 2010. An adorable board book with the words of the song “*Dreidel, Dreidel, and Dreidel*.” The last page features a pop-up *dreidel*. (For preschool and kindergarten).
- DaCosta, Deborah. ***Hanukkah Moon***. Illus. by Gosia Mosz. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2007. When Isobel is invited to Aunt Luisa's for *Hanukkah*, she is not sure what to expect, because Aunt Luisa has just arrived from Mexico. Isobel discovers that one of Aunt Luisa's customs is the welcoming of the *Luna Nuevo*, the new moon that occurs during *Hanukkah*. (For grades 1 – 4).
- Gellman, Ellie. ***Jeremy's Dreidel***. Illus. by Maria Mola. Minneapolis, Kar-Ben, 2012. Revised from the 1992 version. When Jeremy joins the dreidel-making workshop at the Jewish Community Center, he uses clay to make a Braille dreidel for his blind father. He tells his friends about visual impairment resulting in his friends plan an inclusive *Hanukkah* celebration. (For grades 1 – 4).
- Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. ***Candlelight for Rebecca***. *American Girl Collection*. Illus. by Robert Hunt. Middleton, WI: American Girl Pub., 2009. This is a *Hanukkah* story about the Rebecca Rubin, the Jewish American Girl who lives on the Lower East Side of New York in 1914. Rebecca is troubled when her teacher assigns her class to make Christmas decorations. Includes an illustrated "Looking Back" section about Christmas and *Hanukkah* in 1914. (For grades 3-6).

Hanukkah. Denver, CO: Accord Pub., 2010.

A board book that has illustrations with Animation technology which show movement of a flickering *hanukiyah*, spinning *dreidels* and flipping *latkes*. (For preschool and kindergarten).

Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah. Illus. By Olga and Aleksey Ivanov. New York: Marshall Cavendish Children's, 2011.

An illustrated presentation of the well-known *Hanukkah* song "*Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah.*" Includes note about the history of the song. (For preschool – grade 2).

Hyde, Heidi Smith. **Emanuel and the Hanukkah Rescue.** Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2012.

Emanuel's family immigrated to America from Portugal, where they were persecuted for being Jews. Angered that his father is too scared to light the *hanukiyah*, Emanuel stows away on a whaling ship. The ship gets lost in a storm and is guided back by the *Hanukkah* oil lamps of Emmanuel's father and all his neighbors. (For grades 2 – 4).

Kimmel, Eric A. **The Golem's Latkes.** Illus. by Aaron Jasinski. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2011.

Inspired by *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, this *Hanukkah* fairy tale takes place in sixteenth century Prague. Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel, the legendary creator of the golem, visits the Emperor Rudolf II of the Holy Roman Empire, leaving a new housemaid to prepare for his *Hanukkah* party. The rabbi returns to find that she has misused the golem, the clay man he created, to help make latkes. Includes historical and cultural notes. (For grades 1 – 4).



Kimmel, Eric A. **Simon and the Bear: a Hanukkah Story.** Illus. by Matthew Trueman. New York: Disney*Hyperion Books, 2014.

Stranded on an iceberg on his way to America, Simon remembers his mother's parting words and lights the first candle on his *hanukiyah* while praying for a miracle, which soon arrives in the form of a friendly polar bear. (For grades 2 – 4).

Kimmel, Eric A. **Hanukkah Bear.** Illus. by Mike Wohnoutka. New York: Holiday House, 2013.

A new edition of *The Chanukah Guest* by Eric A. Kimmel (1990) with shorter text and new illustrations. (For preschool – grade 2).



Light the Menorah. Illus. by Jannie Ho. New York: Price Stern Sloan, 2009.

A board book that explains the customs of *Hanukkah*. Features pull tabs and one additional candle lights each night. (For preschool and kindergarten).

Melmed, Laura Krauss. **Eight Winter Nights: A Family Hanukkah Book.** Illus. by Elisabeth Schollsberg. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2010.

Moves through the eight nights of *Hanukkah* with side poems that describe the symbols, customs and foods of the holiday. (For kindergarten – grade 4).

Meyer, Emily Flaschner. **Happy Hanukkah, Curious George.** Illus. by Mary O'Keefe Young. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012.

Tabbed board pages lead the reader to various parts of the story which include Curious George: lighting the menorah, playing the dreidel game and eating latkes. (For preschool and kindergarten).

Ofanansky, Allison. ***Harvest of Light***. Phot. by Eliyahu Alpern. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2008.
Set in Israel near Sfat, this is a simply told story with color photographs about harvesting olives and pressing them into oil. The story culminates with using some of the oil for the celebration of Hanukkah. (For grades 1 - 3).

Rosen, Michael J. ***Chanukah Lights***. Illus. by Robert Sabuda. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011.
Using very sophisticated pop-up illustrations, this book counts the candles of a menorah on each night of Hanukkah while recalling images of Jewish life in different places and times, such as Herod's temple in Jerusalem, a *shtetl* in Russia, and a refugee ship bound for the New World. (For grades 4 – adult).



Simpson, Martha Seif. ***The Dreidel that Wouldn't Spin: a Toyshop Tale of Hanukkah***. Illus. by Durga Yael Bernhard. Bloomington, IN: Wisdom Tales, 2014.

The most beautiful *dreidel* a shopkeeper has ever seen will not spin for the two children who insist they must own it, but perhaps it would spin for a child who is in need. (For grades 1 -4).

Ziefert, Harriet. ***Hanukkah Haiku***. Illus. by Karla Gudeon. Maplewood, NJ: Blue Apple Books, 2008.

This clever story is a haiku, a Japanese style poetic form, for each night of Hanukkah. The stepped pages add one candle to the *menorah* every time the page is turned. (For preschool - grade 3).

Non-Fiction Materials

Ben Artzi, Chagay, ed. ***Megilat Chanukah***. Israel: Sifriyat Beth El, 2007.
Hebrew language material. The book of the Hasmoneans recounts one of the most heroic periods in Jewish history: the rebellion of the Maccabees and the establishment of the Hasmonean State. (For grades 4 – 8).

Ben-Simon, Rebecca Tova. ***Four Sides, Eight Nights A New Spin on Hanukkah***. Illus. by Susanna Natti. New Milford, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2005.
Jokes, history, customs, trivia, science facts - everything you wanted to know about Hanukkah - come to life in a witty and informative illustrated book. (For grades 2 – 8).

Celebrating Hanukkah. Springfield, NJ: Behrman House, 2009.
A folder that contains Hanukkah blessings, a brief history of the holiday and explanations of traditions for celebrating at home. (For all ages).

Chagim B'Ivrit: Holidays in Hebrew: Volume 1-3. Chaverim B'Ivrit. New York: URJ, 2007.
A supplementary Hebrew workbook that includes stories, poems, songs and text for the *Tishrei* holidays, Hanukkah, Pesah and Shavuot. The workbooks can be used alongside ***Chaverim B'Ivrit*** or on their own. (For grades 3 – 6).

The Family Chanukah Book: Stories, Games, Brainteasers and Activities for Chanukah. Illus. by Gadi Pollack. New York: Feldheim, 2010.
Divided into eight chapters for each day of Hanukkah. Trivia, recipes, songs, comics, games, etc. (For grades 3 – 8).

Fantastic Foto Hunt, Chanukah: Can You Find All the Differences? New York: Judaica Press, 2007.

The challenge is to find eight differences between two facing photos of images related to Hanukkah. An answer key is in the back of the book. (For kindergarten – grade 2).

Groner, Judy. ***Maccabee Meals: Food and Fun for Hanukkah***. Illus. by Ursula Roma. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2012.

A reprint of the Hanukkah cookbook ***Miracle Meals*** (1987). Candle blessings, the story of Hanukkah and *dreidel* games are included. (For grades 1 – 8).

Heiligman, Deborah. ***Celebrate Hanukkah with Light, Latkes, and Dreidels. Holidays Around the World Series***. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2006.

Uganda, Kenya, Poland, Peru, Israel, Italy, the United States, and Canada and are some of the places where Hanukkah celebrations are photographed. The text describes the two miracles of the holiday: that of the Maccabee's victory over the powerful Greco-Syrian army and the other of the oil that burned for eight days after the Temple was rededicated. (For grades 3 – 6).

Heller, Esther Susan. ***Menorah Under the Sea***. Phot. by David Ginsburg. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2009.

While on an expedition to Antarctica, a Jewish marine ecologist creates an underwater *menorah* out of sea urchins. This book is not only for Hanukkah, but can be read year-round as an example for creating Jewish spaces. (For grades 2 – 6).



JECC. ***Fingerprints: Discovering Jewish Life***. Cleveland: JECC, 2014.

The third edition of the early childhood curriculum is integrated with the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards (OELDS). Includes a Hanukkah unit for early childhood. (For preschool).

JECC. ***Proclaim Freedom Throughout the Land! A Holiday Curriculum with a Focus on Freedom***. Cleveland: JECC, 2003.

The Hanukkah section of this Project Curriculum Renewal curriculum retells the story of the Maccabees' fight for freedom. It explains that Jewish people have the obligation to cherish and promote "Freedom throughout the land." [Leviticus 25:10] (For grades 5-6). Available for free download at: <http://curriculumjecc.wikispaces.com/Holidays>

Levy, Benjamin, Rabbi, ed. ***A Faithful Spirit: Preparing for Chanukah***. New York: URJ Press, 2008.

A study text based on the *midrash* "M'gillat Antiochus" which was traditionally read during Hanukkah in Italian and Yemenite synagogues. The text gives a deeper understanding of Hanukkah. Also, the author discusses how to maintain a Jewish identity while living in a non-Jewish world. (For high school – adult).



Plaut, Joshua Eli. ***A Kosher Christmas: 'tis the Season to be Jewish***. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2012.

Discusses the "December Dilemma." Portrays how Jewish people in America are shaping Christmas by transforming December into a holiday season for all Americans. Foreword by Jonathan D. Sarna. (For adults).



Schultz, Rachael Gelfman and Zeff, Aliza. ***Jewish Holidays, Jewish Values Journal***. Springfield, NJ: Behrman House, 2014.

A workbook for kids in grades 4 - 6 that connects holidays with Jewish values. A lesson plan manual is available. (For grades 4 – 6).

Steinberg, Paul. ***Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays: Hanukkah, Tu b'shevat, Purim***. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 2007.

The stories, essays, poems, anecdotes, and rituals about the history of each holiday, as well as its theological, ethical, agricultural, and seasonal importance and interpretation. (For adults).

Audio-Visual

Agent Emes and the Happy Chanukah: Episode 5. The Adventures of Agent Emes Series. Pittsburg, PA: Reel Jewish Entertainment, 2006.

DVD, 60 minutes, color. Once again Dr. Lo-tov and Agent Emes face a showdown over the Hanukkah celebrations planned by the Jews of Shpittsburgh. (For grades 2 – 6).

Miracle of Lights. Chicago: Shazak Prod., 2004.

DVD, 50 min. An animated cartoon that tells the story of Hanukkah. Accompanied by a book. (For grades 1 – 4).

Shalom Sesame: Chanukah: The Missing Menorah. New York: Sesame Street Workshop/Sisu 2010.

DVD, 28 min. In this new *Shalom Sesame* series, Grover helps the host Anneliese Van Der Pol find her missing *menorah*. The theme is that one can be a hero like a Maccabee by simply helping others. (For preschool – grade 2).

Wurzel, Yehuda. ***Lights***. New York: Gesher, 1984.

DVD, 24 min. ***Lights*** is a modern *midrash*. The film projects similarities between the time of the Maccabees and the world of today and provides a stimulus for youngsters to express positive feelings about Jewishness. A teacher's guide is available. (For grades 5 – 12).

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