2014 Hanukkah Resource List

Denotes new books

Juvenile Literature


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).


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).


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).


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


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).


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).


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).


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


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


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).
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).

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).

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).

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**

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).

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).

A folder that contains *Hanukkah* blessings, a brief history of the holiday and explanations of traditions for celebrating at home. (For all ages).

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).

Divided into eight chapters for each day of *Hanukkah.* Trivia, recipes, songs, comics, games, etc. (For grades 3 – 8).

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).


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


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 Maccabees' 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).


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. Fingerprint: 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).


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](http://curriculumjecc.wikispaces.com/Holidays)


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).


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

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

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).

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

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

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).