



SAMMY SPIDER'S FIRST BOOK OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

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Sammy Spider is curious about everything – especially Jewish holidays. In this story, he learns a little bit about all of them! But as his mother reminds him, spiders don't celebrate holidays – spiders spin webs.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

The cycle of the Jewish year provides a framework for our lives. Each holiday helps us take stock of where we are, season by season – and where we will go next. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a 20th-century scholar and thinker, once referred to Jewish ritual as the “architecture of time,” since ritual observances depend on the day, week, month, or year and help preserve cultural memory while also creating opportunities to contemplate the future. Little ones won't understand these concepts – or even the order of the holidays! – but exposing them to the holidays early helps lay a foundation as they make their way through the Jewish year. Young children will learn about the history and rituals of each holiday as they grow, but even now they can understand that these special days are opportunities to gather together with loved ones – to eat, sing, pray, dance, reflect, and share special time that stands apart from the everyday. What could be more important? Time passes whether we notice it or not. Taking a moment to acknowledge and celebrate special days with your children is a chance to bond and build memories, and that is precious and meaningful for everyone – even the very youngest members of your family. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/sammyholidays.