



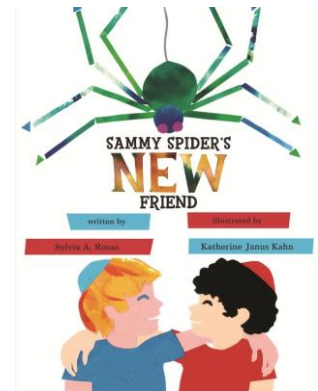
## Read the PJ Library Book

### Sammy Spider's New Friend (4's)

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Published by Kar-Ben Publishing



### Synopsis

Josh and the Shapiro family are preparing food to bring to their new neighbors, an Israeli family. Sammy Spider listens as Mr. Shapiro explains the Jewish custom of welcoming new neighbors with bread and salt. Sammy's curiosity gets the better of him, and he manages to ride a breeze into the neighbor's yard. Sammy notices the young Israeli boy is lonely, but Josh and his family arrive to introduce themselves - and the festivities begin. Josh's family, his new neighbor Moti and his family, and Sammy of course all make new friends that day.

## Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Israel Independence Day - *Yom Ha-Atz-ma-ut* - יום העצמאות

Friendship - *Cha-ve-rut* - חֲבֵרוּת

Welcoming guests / Hospitality - *Hach-na-sat or-chim* - הַכְנִסַת אֹרְחִים

### Israel Independence Day – *Yom HaAtzma'ut*.

In 1948 David Ben-Gurion, soon to be Israel's first prime minister, dramatically declared the country's independence on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, a mere eight hours before the expiration of the British Mandate of Palestine. The *Hakhrazat Ha-Atzma'ut* or Declaration of Independence claims liberation "by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly." Ben-Gurion further confirms "the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel." Recordings of this speech include emotional cheers in the background. The following year the Knesset, Israel's parliament, passed the law making Israel Independence Day a national holiday, marked by ceremonies and celebrations of all sorts. Outside of Israel, many schools, synagogues, and communities affirm our connection to Israel by focusing our studies and explorations of the country. Parades, parties, and other celebrations of Israel's "birthday" take place around the world.

**Welcoming guests / Hospitality – *Hachnasat orchim*.** This book explores the concept of hospitality as it applies to welcoming new neighbors. It is Jewish custom to greet new neighbors with a gift of bread and salt. This centuries-old custom expresses a wish for good fortune, as bread and salt represent fulfillment of basic needs. “By the sweat of your brow shall you eat bread” [Genesis 3:19]. Salt may be a reflection of our toil (sweat is salty!) or it may signify the hope for a little extra spice in life to make things interesting. The Hebrew letters in the word for bread, *lechem*, [ל-ח-מ] are an anagram of the letters in the word for salt, *melach* [מ-ל-ח].



**Friendship – *Chaverut*.** Friendship is an important value in Judaism, partly for its essential value as a human relationship, and partly because our sages teach that companionship heightens the value of Torah study. *Pirkei Avot* (*Ethics of Our Ancestors*) teaches, “Acquire for yourself a friend.” The Hebrew word for acquire (*k’neh*) is literally translated as “to buy.” This teaching highlights the fact that friendship must be earned. Rabbi Yosef Yavetz, a mid-15<sup>th</sup> century scholar expelled from Spain taught, “The price is to adapt yourself to another person’s needs, and to be sensitive to his feelings.”

## Imagine your community living these Jewish values.

**How would your classroom change?  
How will families be involved?**

### In the Classroom / Centers

- ✧ **Hospitality / Welcoming neighbors:** Play-act greeting and welcoming new neighbors during **morning meeting**. Practice your skills by visiting the classroom next door. They can visit you the following day!
- ✧ **Hospitality / Welcoming neighbors:** Have note-cards and small banners on hand in your **literacy and art centers** to make “Welcome to Our Community” cards and signs. Write examples of the Hebrew words for welcome – *Bru-chim ha-ba-im* – בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים for children to add to their designs.
- ✧ **Friendship:** Does anyone in your classroom have friends or relatives from another country? Elicit families’ help so you can share stories about where these friends and relatives were born and how they came to America. Find the places on a **map or globe**. Have any friends or relatives moved away? Discuss ways of keeping in touch with people who don’t live close by.
- ✧ **Yom HaAtzma’ut** – Celebrate Israel’s Independence Day by learning **Hebrew words**. Set a goal, and keep track of how many words you can learn and use. Incorporate simple language such as *to-dah* (thank you), *b’va-ka-sha* (please AND you’re welcome), or *mah cha-dash* (what’s new) into everyday conversations. Listen to Rick Recht’s “The Isty Bitsy Akavish” in your **listening center**. You can find the words and lyric in the *Look At Me* songbook. [http://rickrecht.com/resources/LAM\\_Songbook\(1\).pdf](http://rickrecht.com/resources/LAM_Songbook(1).pdf)
- ✧ **Yom HaAtzma’ut** – Plan a picnic to celebrate Israel Independence Day. Invite the families in your classroom to join you, and serve some tasty Israeli treats.



## Bridging Home and School

### Welcome Movie

Invite families to record a 5 second video in which they say, “Welcome to our community!” You can do this at drop-off time, or ask families to record something on their smart phones and email it to you. Combine these film clips into a short film that your school sends to new or prospective members of your school or organization. You might also create picnic baskets to distribute. One or two families could volunteer to deliver the basket and/or host a picnic.

### Calling All Chefs

Tasting food from different cultures can be an exciting way to get to know the families in your school. Is there someone who loves to cook who would like to teach recipes to the children? Perhaps families will take turns preparing snacks for school (in the school kitchen if necessary) that represent their family history.



## Family Engagement at Home

### Guest Journal

Invite your families to start keeping a “Guest Journal.” Families can keep track of who visits their home (as well as homes they visit) with photos or a sign-in page. They may choose to jot down favorite recipes or activities they experienced with their guests.

# Share

your stories and experiences with everyone.

**What happened?**

**How can the learning go deeper?**



### Tell us a story... about a budding friendship

You observe things as a teacher that others might not notice, and you may help to forge life-long friendships. Do you see a special kinship developing among students that you might bring to the attention of parents or colleagues? These two girls (pictured left), now in their 20's, met at preschool. Their teachers introduced the parents – and the families are still friends!

# More

resources and websites for inspiration

PJ Library parent page with lots of Yom HaAztma'ut information [Pjfor.me/yom-haatzmaut](http://Pjfor.me/yom-haatzmaut)

Inspirational film about Israel's many accomplishments <http://www.israelinsidethemovie.com/>

Welcoming guests <http://pjlibrary.org/pj-blog/index.php/archives/1783/learning-to-welcome-guests/>

