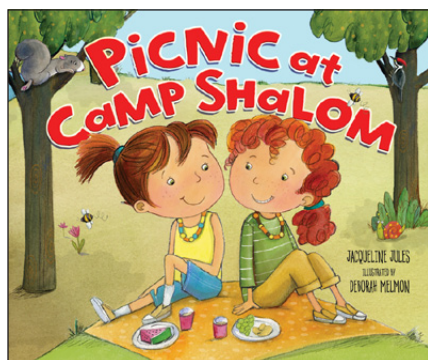


## PICNIC AT CAMP SHALOM

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*When Carly laughs at Sara's last name, her bunkmate at Camp Shalom refuses to be consoled. Little does Sara know that Carly has a reason for her outburst. When their mutual love of music brings harmony to Shabbat dinner as well as to their friendship, Carly finally gets the chance to reveal her secret.*

The experiences of Carly and Sara and the relationship between the two girls are great examples of what Jewish summer camps offer: immersion in a safe and supportive Jewish “community,” in which kids can explore social situations, test their growing independence, learn strategies for conflict resolution, and make new friends. Parents of campers may naturally feel concern about “letting go” of their children during the summer, but those who do so learn that the Jewish camp experiences can be positively life changing; Jewish summer camp can be a great gift to your children. As you read *Picnic at Camp Shalom*, let the relationship between Sara and Carly spark conversations in your family by considering these questions:

- Why did Carly and Sara like each other right away?
- What made Sara so quick to be upset with Carly?
- Why didn't their counselor bring the girls together to talk about the misunderstanding?
- If you were Carly, how would you have handled this situation? If you were Sara, would you have reacted the way she did?
- How would camp have been different for both girls if they hadn't resolved their misunderstanding?
- What do you think the girls learned from each other?
- Do you think Sara and Carly will remain friends once they leave camp?

### CAMP EXPERIENCE

Every year, thousands of children live and love the Jewish camp experience. The decision to attend a Jewish camp and the choice of a specific camp affect the entire family and require discussion and preparation. As you read and re-read *Picnic at Camp Shalom*,

- Encourage your children's curiosity about Jewish summer camps; visit on-line sites with them, such as [www.jewishcamp.org](http://www.jewishcamp.org), where you can see photo albums and videos of camps, read comments from campers and parents, and explore camp options. Some Jewish camps specialize in the arts, sports, or the environment.
- Share “best memories” of your own or a friend's camp experiences with your children. Stories of parents as kids can be irresistible! Pj

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