



WHAT I LIKE ABOUT PASSOVER

Written by Varda Livney

Illustrated by Varda Livney

Passover arrives, and a little girl shares her favorite parts of the celebration of the holiday. The question is: what do you like best about Passover?

What I Like About Passover introduces a number of concepts and traditions related to *Pesach* (its Hebrew equivalent): among those mentioned are the *seder* plate—a platter holding symbolic foods, the significance of which are explained during the *seder* itself; the *Haggadah* (literally: “telling”)—the book of prayers, stories and songs used as a ritual “script” for the *seder*; the Four Questions, which are traditionally asked of the assembly by the youngest child at the *seder* to a simple melody; and *charoset*—a sweet mixture made of apples, nuts, wine, and the like—which symbolizes the mortar used by the Israelite slaves. Mention is also made of the *afikoman* (literally: “dessert”)—the *matza* hidden at the beginning of the *seder*. Traditionally, children search for the *afikoman* and use it, once found, as “ransom” for a small gift.

This book concludes with the idea that one of the sweetest aspects of Passover is celebrating together as a family and as a People, preserving traditions and creating new ones.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Children in the age group for which this book is intended may be too young to grasp the concepts presented; however, they can certainly enjoy the touch of the smooth, shiny board-book, the appearance of the colorful pages, and the gentle sound of your voice as you introduce and—hope-

fully—re-read this book to your children. Somewhere inside, your little ones will hold the memory of these story sessions they share with you.

PASSOVER AND THE SEDAR TABLE

While synagogue attendance is common during Passover, what sets the holiday apart from others is its extensive home observance. In fact, the *seder*—the “talking feast” which is the key event of Passover—is commonly held to be the most widely-observed Jewish practice. With the aid of a *haggadah*, the text and commentary that provides participants with the ritual’s script and order (“order” being the literal meaning of the word *seder*), Jews navigate the highly symbolic reenactment, again and again, for telling and re-telling the story fulfills the instruction in Exodus 13:8: “You shall tell your children on that day, saying, ‘It is because of what God did for me when I went out of the land of Egypt.’”

Many Passover practices are meant to engage and delight children, and can be explored through reading and discussion. And if you haven’t done so, consider attending a *seder*, for we all, children and adults alike, learn by experience. Pj