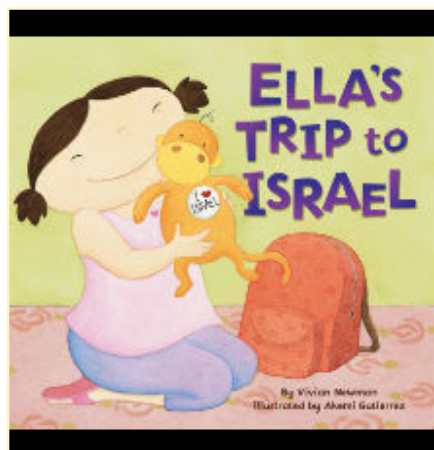


Ella's Trip to Israel

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What would you write in a note to leave in the Western Wall?

Old and New

Never been to Israel? Eyn ba'aya, no problem. Ella and Koofi, her stuffed monkey, are here to tell you all about it. Ella discovers new foods like falafel with tahini, sees ancient sites like the Kotel (the Western Wall), and tries interesting things, like taking a mud bath at the Dead Sea. For such an old country, Israel is full of very new experiences for people (and monkeys) of all ages.

Wishes and Thank-You's

When Ella visits the Kotel, she asks about the slips of paper people tuck into the cracks between the stones. When her mother tells her they are "wishes and thank-you's," she's describing the essence of a prayer. The Kotel is what remains of the Second Temple, which was destroyed in the first century CE. People from all over the world visit the Kotel to pray, meditate, and leave behind their wishes and thank-you's.

Bon Voyage, Safe Travels

We want long trips to be eventful -- but only in happy ways, please! Before embarking on a journey away from home, many Jews take a moment to say a traditional prayer known as the Traveler's Prayer, or Tefilat Haderech. The prayer asks God to deliver the traveler to the intended destination in gladness and peace, whether the trip is taken by land, air, or sea. If you have an upcoming trip, check out pjlibrary.org/travel for the Traveler's Prayer as well as ideas to make the journey easy and fun for the whole family.

HANDS ON!

Part of the fun of a trip is anticipating it. Do you have an upcoming trip? Let your child help pack for it!

Select a bag that your child can easily carry. Backpacks are often a good choice.

Suggest a book or travel game that can keep your child busy on a long trip. Got a window seat? Removable window clings in simple shapes take up little space in a bag, and they keep kids entertained for a surprisingly long time.

If you're going on a plane, pack a pair of child-friendly earphones. The ones passed out on the flight are likely to be less comfortable for smaller heads.

A small notepad and chunky crayons help keep little ones occupied. If you happen to be visiting Israel, your child can write or draw a note to tuck in the Kotel.

Don't forget a lovey! What would Ella's trip to Israel have been without Koofi? Leave room for your child's favorite stuffed animal or blanket. Happy travels!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

ELLA takes a very long airplane ride to get to Israel. Have you ever been on a long airplane, car, or train ride? Where did you go, and what was your favorite part of the trip?

WHEN Ella tastes mango juice for the first time, she loves it. What new foods have you tried recently? What did you think of them?

IF Koofi could talk, what would he say about the trip? What do you think his favorite place was?