

Fast Asleep in a Little Village in Israel

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Where do you find quiet?

Guessing Game

Mrs. Strauss lives in a charming little village in Israel... but which one? The author gives us some clues along the way. For example, Mrs. Strauss has a beautiful view of the water from her apartment. You might be tempted to think that this is Lake Kinneret, Israel's only lake, which does appear in her dream. But the train chugging alongside gives it away: She is on Israel's west coast, so the water must be the Mediterranean Sea. We know it also has to be south of the ancient city of Acco and north of Tel Aviv because of the directions the train is heading. Take out a map of Israel and see if you can figure out any other clues.

"Geshem!"

Rain is a very big deal in Israel. Unlike other places in the world where rain can fall all through the year, Israel has a rainy season that extends from roughly late October to mid-March. The rest of the year is mostly rain-free, so it's really important for those rains to fall in their season. The country's crops and drinking water supply depend on it. If there is no rain, the whole country feels it. That's why in Israel, rain is never seen as an inconvenience — it's welcomed gladly. Schoolchildren in their classrooms will even clap when the drops start to fall! To learn more visit pjlibrary.org/fastasleep.

If You Could Talk to the Animals...

"Kukuriku!" What was *that*? An Israeli rooster, of course! You didn't expect it to speak English, did you? Yes, like their owners, Israeli animals speak Hebrew. What else do they say? Well, dogs in Israel say "hahv-hahv" instead of "bow-wow" or "woof-woof." Roosters don't say "cock-a-doodle-doo"; they join their chicken friends in the "kukuriku" call. And cats? Well, they are very smart; their "meoow" translates all over the world. What would your pets say if they could talk to their Israeli animal cousins?

It Takes a Village

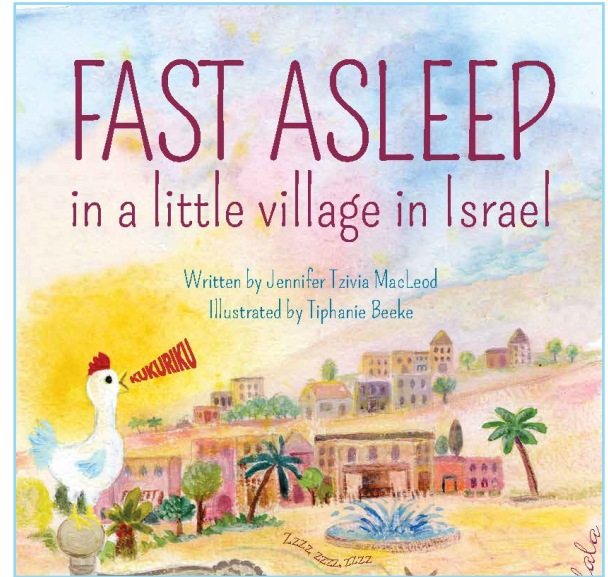
Israel has every type of place you might want to live. There are big cities, like Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, with lots of shops, restaurants, and tourist attractions. There are *kibbutzim* (plural of *kibbutz*), communal farms where people live and share resources with each other. There is the *moshav*, a small farming community. And then there are villages like the one Mrs. Strauss lives in. Not too big and not too small, these villages have just enough. Mrs. Strauss's village has a small grocery store, a street sweeper, date palms, apartment buildings where people can hear each other, animals...it sounds like a place a person could call home. But please keep the noise down, okay? Some people are trying to sleep.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

How do you feel when it rains?

What do you like to do most when it rains? Do you like to be inside or outside?

Do you like everything quiet when you sleep, or do you like to hear some familiar sounds?



HANDS ON!

Make an Umbrella Decoration

Supplies

Paper plate

Cardstock

Scissors

Glue stick

Crayons, markers, or paint



- 1 Cut the paper plate in half to create the top of the umbrella.
- 2 Make the umbrella handle by cutting a "J" shape out of the cardstock.
- 3 Use the glue stick to attach the top of the handle to the bottom underside of the paper plate.
- 4 Decorate your umbrella with your art supplies of choice (maybe even add a little glitter if you're feeling fancy!). On the next rainy day, display your umbrella in the window to celebrate the rain.