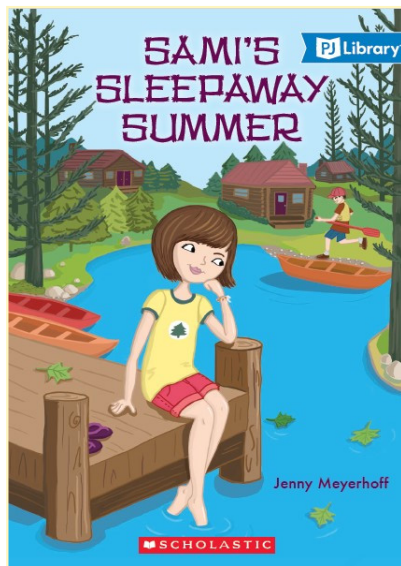


Sami's Sleepaway Summer

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{ What deserves a "fair try"? }

Ties that Bind

"It was the best ever!" That's what many people say about summer camp. What makes overnight camp such a great place for friendship – haverut in Hebrew – to grow? The keys are time and shared experiences. Like Sami and her cabinmates, overnight campers are together almost every minute of the day. Eating together, sharing adventures, and helping each other through tough moments builds friendship in a deep, lasting way. It doesn't hurt when our friends have a knack for making up songs with hilarious Yiddish words! When friends laugh together, the bond becomes even stronger. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/sami.

HANDS ON!

Be a Fairy Campmother

Supplies:

- Friends or family members
- Fun/yummy/pretty things you know they'll like
- Ability to keep a secret

You don't have to be at camp to brighten someone's day with secret surprises, like Maya and Gabby do for Cabin Shemesh. You can be a "fairy campmother" at home, too. Choose a friend or family member you want to surprise. Think of a few things you can do secretly to put a smile on their face – leave them a yummy treat, make a colorful card or craft for them, or write down some funny jokes and leave them for your surprise-ee to discover. After a few days, reveal your identity . . . or keep it a secret and move on to surprising someone else!

All Together Now

On the first day of camp, Sami feels different from her cabinmates, but soon the girls embrace each other's differences and become a group. Sami has an "aha moment" about community after she goes missing before Shabbat dinner on Friday night. When she sees how worried her cabinmates and counselors were, she realizes that they are "true friends, and I can't feel sad when I'm with them." That's also the lesson of Rabbi Joe's Shabbat story: When you're together with a community (kehilla in Hebrew), everything is better.

Pack a Little Courage

Sami has to summon courage – in Hebrew, ometz lev (literally, "courage of the heart") – to get through all these new experiences. There's sleeping away from home, trying tofu surprise (a valiant effort!), the Blob, and of course, the way-up-high ropes course. Maybe Sami's biggest test of courage is reconsidering what "kind of kid" she is. She lets those four adventurous days take her from a staunch belief that "you can't change who you are" to a much more flexible attitude about who she can be and what she can enjoy. could there be?

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHAT "kind of kid" are you today? Have you always been that kind of kid?

ARE there new things you're excited to try? How about ones you feel scared to try?

WHAT makes a good friend? What makes a good community?