



# SADIE'S SNOWY TU B'SHEVAT

Written by Jamie Korngold

Illustrated by Julie Fortenberry

*Sadie knows Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees, is a traditional time to plant a tree – but it's too snowy where she lives. Her grandmother helps Sadie and her brother, Ori, come up with another way to express love and care for the planet we live on.*

## JEWISH CONCEPTS

*Tu B'Shevat* celebrates trees and the important role they play in the environment. The holiday also shows appreciation for the planet, reminding us that it is our job to help take care of it. (The name of the holiday is actually a date: “tu b'Shevat” literally means the fifteenth day of the month of *Shevat* in the Jewish calendar.) The holiday usually arrives during mild spring weather in the Middle East. But in Sadie's story, snow blankets the ground. No matter how hard Sadie tries, the weather simply won't cooperate, so she's going to have to get creative. She's not alone; ever since Jews began leaving the land of Israel in the massive resettling known as the Diaspora, the Jewish people have had to get creative. Faced with the challenge of holding on to cherished culture in new lands, Jews have come up with new traditions – and those customs reflect the lands where we have settled.

Sadie marks the day by planting parsley, a simple way to grow something green indoors. The bonus? It can be harvested just in time for Passover, when parsley comes in handy for the Passover seder, the ritual Passover meal. Another Tu B'Shevat custom is to eat fruits and nuts that come from trees, in a different kind of a ritual meal – a Tu B'Shevat seder! Sadie learns that a little snow doesn't need to get in the way of a meaningful Tu B'Shevat. A little creativity goes a long way.

## USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Plant parsley like Sadie! It's a great way to bring a little springtime into your kitchen, and the growing cycle is about two months – just long enough to sprout a perfect sprig of *karpas*, a leafy green vegetable (often parsley!) that goes on a Passover seder plate. Follow these instructions from [biblebeltbalabusta.com](http://biblebeltbalabusta.com).

Gather your supplies:

Small container with drainage hole (a plastic cup with a hole punched in the bottom will do)

Drainage pan

Potting soil

Water

Parsley seeds

Butter knife

Fill container with potting soil about an inch from the top. Moisten soil well. Wet your thumb, then stick it into the parsley seeds. Scrape the seeds from your thumb onto the potting soil with the butter knife. Cover the seeds with a little more soil, then moisten the top with a little more water. Place the container in a sunny spot and don't let it dry out. Soon a “tree” of parsley will grow. Happy Tu B'Shevat – spring's just around the corner!