



DAYENU!

Illustrated by Miriam Latimer

A family is shown celebrating together, while the lyrics from one of the most well-known and best-loved Passover songs and accompanying illustrations depict the Israelites' departure from Egyptian slavery and their exuberant walk toward freedom.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

If you've been to a Passover seder (ritual meal), you've probably already belted out a chorus of "Dayenu." Bouncy and rollicking, the song is easy to pick up and very fun to sing, but it also contains an important message. The word *dayenu* means "it would have been enough" in Hebrew, and the song expresses deep gratitude for multiple things – not only liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt (which is what the story of Passover is all about), but also the gift of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), which the Israelites received after they left, and the eventual return to the land of Israel. These things "make us happy," as the refrain in this book goes, but more specifically, they make us *grateful*. It's no accident that Passover is a time for expressing gratitude. Gathering together to share good food and quality time with loved ones is a hallmark of the holiday.

If you're not familiar with the song, take a moment to listen to it at pjlibrary.org/dayenu. You'll learn it in no time – the chorus is only one word, and the tune is remarkably catchy. You might find yourself humming it even when you're not at a seder. And why not? A reminder to be grateful for the many good things in our lives is never a bad idea. Happy Passover!