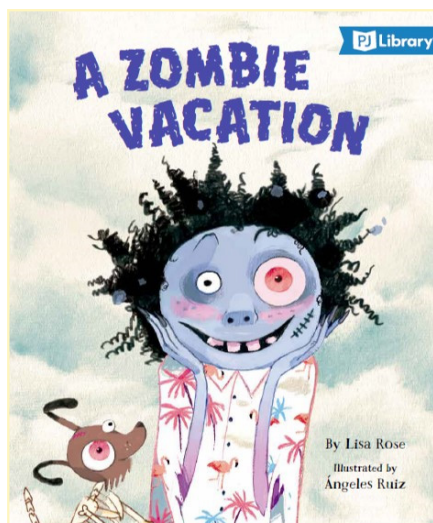


# A Zombie Vacation

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{ What helps you feel more like yourself? }



## A Living (?) Paradise

The Dead Sea doesn't sound like a place you'd want to go, but it's actually one of Israel's top attractions, and not just for zombies. Its name is misleading: In Hebrew, it's called Yam HaMelach, or "salt sea," and while the extremely salty water means that no fish or plants can live in it, bacteria and algae do. The Dead Sea happens to be the lowest point on the planet (appropriate for grave-dwellers), and according to the Bible, it's also the site where two wicked cities were destroyed by fire and sulphur raining down from the sky. And thanks to the high salinity, you can float in this water without sinking! To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/zombie](http://pjlibrary.org/zombie).

## HANDS ON!

### Make Your Own Travel Journal

Going on a vacation? Keep a travel journal! Writing about the places you saw and the things you did gives you a chance to reflect on it all, and when you get home, you'll have a detailed memento of your trip.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Stapler
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers
- Glue
- Vacation photos (optional)

Staple a stack of paper together to make a book. Use art supplies to decorate the cover. Create pages inside the book about different places you've traveled, or favorite places in your local area. Write down what you saw, what you enjoyed, questions about the place to investigate, and so on. Use glue to attach photos if you have them or make drawings of each place. Save room for future places you will visit. When you're home, look back at all the places you've been and remember the fun times. You might find you feel a little more like yourself!

## Desert Oasis

Speaking of the Bible, the biblical Song of Songs describes Ein Gedi, the lush desert oasis near the Dead Sea, like this: "My beloved is like a cluster of blossoms in the vineyards of Ein Gedi." With its gorgeous mountains and natural springs, it really is a special place. It's also famous in biblical history. Long before he became king, young David is said to have escaped to this spot right after his showdown with Goliath. He was trying to escape King Saul, who saw him as a rival. All this ancient history and natural beauty in one spot – no wonder people (and zombies) love to visit.

## Zombie Facial

Even if you're not a zombie, a trip to the Dead Sea can have surprising health benefits. How? Mud! Dead Sea mud is chock full of minerals like magnesium, sodium, and potassium, so it's fantastic for your skin. It also has antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties. It's a time-honored tradition for visitors to cover their skin in this magical mud and soak in all the benefits. This makes people look less like zombies and more like golems (in Jewish legend, golems are clay figures brought to life). Zombies, golems – whatever! Everyone has fun at the Dead Sea.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**WOULD** you want to visit the Dead Sea? Why or why not?

**HOW** does coming home feel after spending time away?

**HAVE** you ever floated in water – even if it wasn't the Dead Sea?