

ON THE Shelf

Being 3 years old with PJ Library

The PJ Library Book Selection Committee asks a lot of questions. Each month, the committee gathers to review a collection of books – both published and forthcoming – that will arrive in mailboxes a year after they're chosen. Books must meet multiple quality and content benchmarks (*Are we offering enough content on Jewish holidays? Values? History? Are we providing titles that show not just geographic and ethnic diversity, but also a diversity of Jewish practice?*), but they also have to fit with the other books families receive (*Too many folk tales? Not enough contemporary stories? Has this age received any Sephardi tales, or has it been mostly Ashkenazi?*).

And then, of course, there's the overriding question: Is this book good? Will it sit on a bookshelf gathering dust, or will a family read it again and again (and again)? It's a tricky balance to strike, but we love the challenge. Here's a look at how the Book Selection Committee made PJ Library an exciting experience for 3-year-olds and their families from August 2018 through August 2019.

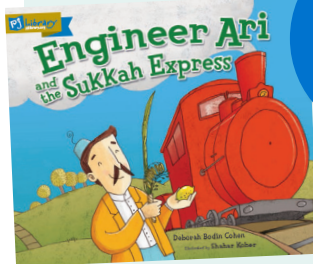
AUG
2018



All the World

Written by Liz Garton Scanlon
Illustrated by Marla Frazee

This sweet title is illustrated by Marla Frazee, who not only won the Caldecott Award but also created the Boss Baby series that inspired the 2017 animated movie!



SEP
2018

Engineer Ari and the Sukkah Express

Written by Deborah Bodin Cohen
Illustrated by Shahar Kober

There aren't that many books about the holiday of Sukkot – and even fewer that combine that holiday with the perennial toddler favorite: trains!

OCT
2018



Something from Nothing

Written and Illustrated
by Phoebe Gilman

This title was one of the very first books PJ Library sent out. We still love this sweet interpretation of a classic Jewish tale, and we're excited to send it again to a new generation of PJ Library families.

NOV
2018



Hanukkah!

Written by Roni Schotter
Illustrated by Marilyn Hafner

Roni Schotter, author of this lovely portrayal of a classic Hanukkah, also wrote the PJ Library books *Passover Magic* and *Purim Play*.

DEC
2018



Families received CDs for the last time this December. For Jewish kids' music visit pjlibraryradio.com or download the PJ Library Radio app!



**JAN
2019**

Happy Birthday, Tree!

Written by Madelyn Rosenberg
Illustrated by Jana Christy

From board books all the way up to middle-grade books, Sydney Taylor Award-winner Madelyn Rosenberg crosses all ages of PJ Library kids.



**APR
2019**

It's a Mitzvah, Grover

Written by Tilda Balsley
and Ellen Fischer
Illustrated by Tom Leigh

Kids will love seeing one of their favorite Sesame Street characters in a Jewish context...and parents will love introducing their children to the concept of mitzvot.

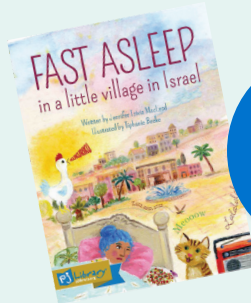
**FEB
2019**



Saturdays Are Special

Written by Chris Barash
Illustrated by Abigail Marble

PJ Library has many, many books on Shabbat (and we can always use more!), but relatively few about Havdalah. This sweet story illustrates why the end of Shabbat is just as meaningful as the start.

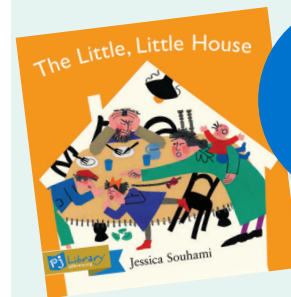


**MAY
2019**

Fast Asleep in a Little Village in Israel

Written by Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod
Illustrated by Tiphonie Beeke

Cucuricu! That's Hebrew for "cock-a-doodle-doo." This ambient slice of Israeli life provides readers a window into what things are like half a world away.



**JUL
2019**

The Little, Little House

Written and illustrated
by Jessica Souhami

Certain folktales are so good, they appear in our lineup again and again. Readers might also recognize this story in *A Big Quiet House*, *Terrible, Terrible!* and *It Could Always Be Worse*.



**MAR
2019**

Pippa's Passover Plate

Written by Vivian Kirkfield
Illustrated by Jill Weber

Every March, we try to send Passover books to each age group. This new title is not only a Passover book, but also a values book, highlighting the importance of *ometz lev*: courage.

**JUN
2019**



I Love Camp!

Written and Illustrated
by Todd Parr

You might recognize artist Todd Parr's distinctive style from the PJ Library tzedakah box – hundreds of thousands of tzedakah boxes have been sent so far, with more going to new PJ Library families every December.

**AUG
2019**



Oh No, George!

Written and illustrated
by Chris Haughton

This sweet tale about a dog who gets in trouble was also translated into Hebrew for PJ Library's sister program in Israel, Sifriyat Pijama, which means Jewish kids around the globe will be delighting in George's antics.