



LISTEN

Written by Lina Schwarz

Illustrated by Patrice Barton

Whether it's the sounds on an outdoor stroll, the splash of a bubbly bath, or the plink-plank of rain on a windowpane, the baby and grandmother in this book are paying attention to the world around them – and feeling deep gratitude for it, as well as for each other.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Not a lot happens in this quiet story, but Baby and *Savta* (Hebrew for “grandmother”) are perfectly happy. That’s because they’re paying attention to simple pleasures – an outdoor stroll, a bubbly bath, even a rainy afternoon.

Taking a moment to pause and acknowledge the sweetness of everyday life is the essence of an important Jewish value, *hakarat hatov* (Hebrew for “noticing the good”). Judaism encourages us to say short prayers of thanks for dozens of small things every day. Traditional daily prayers include thanking God for having a body that works, food to eat, and even just the privilege of opening your eyes to witness a new day. To learn more visit pjlibrary.org/listen.

The grandmother in this story lavishes affection upon her “beautiful,” “clever,” “lovely” grandchild, filling both of them with joy and happiness. The relationship between grandparents and grandchildren, encompassed by the Jewish tradition of *l’dor vador* (“from generation to generation”), is undeniably special. Grandparents fill a prized role in many cultures, including Judaism, for their unique ability to help guide the newest generation in the world. But the most important hallmark of this relationship is, of course, the deep bond of love.