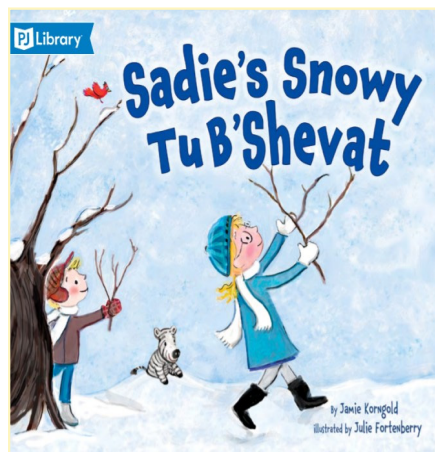


Sadie's Snowy Tu B'Shevat

written by
Jamie S. Korngold

illustrated by
Julie Fortenberry



{ **What helps you grow?** }

A Harbinger of Things to Come

As Sadie's grandma points out, Tu B'Shevat is the perfect time for planting trees — in Israel, anyway! Israel's rainy season starts around Sukkot (the fall festival of harvest), and the dry season starts around Passover (the spring festival of freedom). Tu B'Shevat falls toward the end of the rainy season, when the sap begins to rise in trees. It is marked all across Israel by a gorgeous sight — the flowering of the almond trees. For Israeli children, those flowers are a sign Passover is on its way. For Sadie and Ori, parsley can be the sign! To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/sadiessnowytubshevat.

Seder Star

Parsley embodies spring with its tiny green sprouts. It heralds the reawakening of the earth — its rebirth after a long winter. Similarly, Passover marks the liberation of the Israelites after hundreds of years of slavery. At the Passover seder (ritual meal), we retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt — not just with words but with food. The ritual of dipping karpas (spring greens, often parsley) into salt water) is the unique kickoff to the seder-night celebration.

Another Seder

Tu B'Shevat and Passover have another thing in common — a seder! A Tu B'Shevat seder is a fantastic way to connect with the land of Israel and celebrate what's growing there, no matter where we live. The Torah (first five books of the Bible) calls Israel "a land of wheat, and barley, and vines; of fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey." These "seven species" (shivat haminin) are at the heart of the Tu B'Shevat celebration (the honey in this case is from date trees, not bees). Other native foods are eaten too, like almonds and carob. It's a real festival of fruit!

HANDS ON!

Plant A Parsley Tree

You can plant a parsley "tree" like Ori and Sadie. Parsley is an easy herb to grow indoors as long as it has a "special spot" with everything it needs to grow.

Supplies:

- A small flowerpot (or a paper cup with a hole poked in the bottom for drainage)
- Paint and/or stickers
- Potting soil
- Parsley seeds (soaking them overnight in warm water will speed germination)
- Water

Decorate your container as you like, then fill it 3/4 full with soil and make 3 to 6 depressions in it. Put a seed in each depression. Add water. Keep your pot in a special spot, sunny and central, so you don't forget to water it every few days. With luck, you will have a parsley "tree" in just a few weeks — and you can harvest it for Passover!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

SADIE reads a book and learns what a tree needs to grow big and strong. What does it need? What do you need to grow big and strong?

BEFORE planting her tree, what does Sadie imagine her tree will be like? Does her tree turn out the way she hopes it will? How?

GRANDMA tells Sadie and Ori a story about how she planted parsley "when she was little." Do you know any stories about things your parents or grandparents did when they were small?