

# JUST FOR KIDS – OCTOBER 2023

## OCTOBER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

### SIMCHAS TORAH: SUNDOWN OCTOBER 6TH TO SUNDOWN OCTOBER 8

#### LEARN ABOUT SIMCHAS TORAH (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Following the seven joyous days of Sukkot, comes the happy holiday known as Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah. Learn about how we celebrate this holiday.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/4802/jewish/Simchat-Torah.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4802/jewish/Simchat-Torah.htm)

#### THE TORAH SCROLL (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Simchat Torah means rejoicing with our Torah. What do you know about the Torah scroll? Learn about how it is made, its decorations, and how it is treated with respect.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/4804/jewish/The-Torah-Scroll.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4804/jewish/The-Torah-Scroll.htm)

#### WRITING A TORAH SCROLL (ages 8 to adult) **Video**

“A Community Writes Their Own Torah Scroll: Creating A Home for the First Sefer Torah in the State of Florida”

This is a fascinating movie about a community in Florida that wrote their own Torah Scroll. It is the first sefer Torah ever written, in its entirety, in the state of Florida. The Torah contains 304,805 letters – all written by hand.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/2712207/jewish/Writing-a-Torah-Scroll.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2712207/jewish/Writing-a-Torah-Scroll.htm)

#### SHGAGA: THE TORAH'S RESPONSE TO MAKING MISTAKES (ages 11 to adult) **Animated**

Shgaga is the Torah concept for when someone does something accidentally, or by mistake. Doing something accidentally is different from doing something on purpose.

Watch this animated video to learn three different Torah stories about shgaga. *There are different opinions about these laws. After watching the video discuss your opinion with someone*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0srVYU4PoQ>

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **MINI TORAH SCROLLS CRAFT FOR SIMCHAT TORAH!** (ages 9 and up)

Make mini torah scrolls that you can use to make napkin rings, cupcake or cake decorations or anything else you can think of!

<https://www.creativejewishmom.com/2015/10/mini-torah-scrolls-craft-for-simchat-torah.html>

### **WHAT'S IN THE TORAH MINI BOOK** (ages 6 with help and up)

The word Torah means “teaching,” and in Judaism, it is our most precious book. It contains stories of our ancestors, which help us understand our own lives today. It is filled with Jewish law, mitzvot, blessings, and so much more. The words you paste inside your Torah mini book will help you learn how special it is.

<https://www.makeitjewish.com/blog/whats-in-the-torah-mini-book>

## **STORIES**

### **SIMCHAT TORAH STORY**

#### **SAMMY SPIDER'S FIRST SIMCHAT TORAH** by Sylvia A. Rouss (ages 6-8) **Read Aloud**

Sammy is curious about the candy apple attached to Josh's Simchat Torah flag. When he goes to get a closer look, he soon finds himself stuck to the apple and on his way to Josh's synagogue, where he learns important lessons about Simchat Torah.

### **STORIES FOR FALL**

September 22 (the autumnal equinox) marked the official first day of fall. But, as you can see from some of the stories below, it is October and November that mostly show the signs of fall.

#### **HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S FALL?** by Allan Fowler (ages 4-5) **Nonfiction Read Aloud**

Summer is over and now it's fall. The leaves are falling from the trees and the air is getting chilly. Think of other signs of fall you might know. Then listen to this book and find out about some more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQGjgbydSig>

#### **WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?** by Betsy Maestro (ages 7-10) **Nonfiction Read Aloud**

Aren't autumn leaves beautiful? But, why do they change colors from green to red, orange and yellow? Why are the colors different every year? Why do leaves from different trees turn different colors? Listen to this book explain why this happens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5jTTJ9CjNQ>

#### **TOO MANY PUMPKINS** by Linda White (ages 7 and up) **Read Aloud**

Rebecca Estelle doesn't like pumpkins at all, and she certainly doesn't want to grow any. But something happens and she ends up with too many pumpkins! What should she do with them? What would you do with too many pumpkins?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGtSLfTJ7xU>

## **JEWISH FOLKLORE STORIES:**

### **THE GOLEM OF RABBI ELIJAH-THE LEGEND OF THE GOLEM OF CHELM** (ages 10 and up) **Animated**

Jewish folklore has many stories about the golem. In this one, a rabbi creates a character (the golem) out of clay, to be helpful to the people of his village, there are some unexpected results. Rabbi uses clever thinking to take care of the problem. Does this story remind you a little of the story of Frankenstein with a touch of Amelia Bedelia? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8gClvFg11I>

### **VILLAGE OF IDIOTS** (ages 8 and up) **animated**

Do you sometimes think that what you don't have is better than what you have? In this story Shmendrik is getting tired of living in his small village of Chelm. He sets out on a journey to a new place which brings him to a new village of Chelm, which is weirdly like his old Chelm.

There are many stories about "the wise men of Chelm, but many people think they are not wise at all, but instead foolish. After watching this story, what do you think?

<https://youtu.be/cTVdbrniiNA>

## **SHABBAT**

### **SHABBAT BLESSINGS** (ages 8 and up) **Animated video**

Come learn the Shabbat dinner blessings with Isaac Zones! Isaac comes to dinner at Moishe House and gets a surprising challenge - can he lead the Shabbat dinner guests in four ritual blessings?! With a little help from this karaoke style video, you can too!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKcYRCbsGfQ>

*Check this out:*

## **CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT CORRELATE WITH THIS MONTH'S TOPICS AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY**

### **SIMCHAS TORAH and SHEMINI ATZERET**

1. Sukkot & Simhat Torah, Joel Luri Grishaver (**NONFICTION**)
2. Sukkot and Simhat Torah, Miriam Schlein (**NONFICTION**)
3. Maya Prays For Rain, Susan Tarcov (**FICTION**)
4. A Child's Introduction to Torah, Shirley Newman (**NONFICTION**)

## **SHABBAT**

1. Havdalah Sky, A Poem for the End of Shabbat, Chris Barash (*board book*)
2. Fridays Are Special, Chris Barash (**FICTION**)
3. The Cricket and the Ant, Naomi Ben-Gur (**FICTION**)
4. In the Market of Zakrobat, Ori Elon (**FICTION**)
5. No Baths At Camp, Tamar Fox (**FICTION**)
6. Shai's Shabbat Walk, Elilie Gellman (*board book*)
7. This is the Challah, Sue Hepker (**FICTION**)
8. The Friday Nights of Nana, Amy Hest (**FICTION**)
9. Joseph and the Sabbath Fish, Eric Kimmel (**FICTION**)
10. Clarence's Topsy-Turvey Shabbat, Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod (**FICTION**)
11. Many Days, One Shabbat, Fran Manushkin (**FICTION**)
12. Shabbat Shalom, (20 festive songs ) Cindy Paley (**NONFICTION**)
13. The Schmutzy Family, Madelyn Rosenberg (**FICTION**)
14. The Kiddish Cup Who Hated Wine, Byrd Salop (**FICTION**)
15. Mrs. Moskowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks, Amy Schwartz (**FICTION**)
16. The Sabbath Lion, A Jewish Folktale from Algeria, Retold by Howard Schwartz and Barbara Rush (**FICTION**)
17. Yitzi The Trusty Tractor, Naomi Shulman (**FICTION**)
18. Let's Celebrate Shabbat, Adam Siegel editor (**NONFICTION**)
19. The Shabbat Box, Leslie Simpson (**FICTION**)