

JUST FOR KIDS – AUGUST 2026

STORIES

IT'S STILL SUMMER!

THE VERY QUIET CRICKET by Eric Carle (ages 3-5) **Animated**

Have you ever heard a cricket chirp? Do you know how they make that sound? This little cricket meets lots of different insects who greet him with a hello, but he can't make a sound to greet them back, until one day something different happens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdiGEjz5b0Q>

AT THE BEACH by Shira Evans (ages 3-6) **Nonfiction read aloud.**

Have you been to a beach? What did you see there? Was it rocky or smooth? What did the sand look like? Beaches can be the same in some ways and different in others. Watch this read aloud and learn about the parts of a beach and how they can be different, and similar!

<https://youtu.be/S8MRRsjNWII>

ARTHUR'S FAMILY VACATION by Marc Brown (ages 5-8) **Read aloud**

Have you gone on a vacation with your family? Did everything go as you planned? Sometimes plans don't work out! Arthur is not happy about going on a family vacation, he wants to go to camp with his best friend instead. His family is looking forward to a great time spent at the beach, but days of rain and other things that were not expected definitely change those plans!

<https://youtu.be/hytlzrHPwkg>

TAR BEACH by Faith Ringgold (ages 8-12) **Read aloud**

Cassie Louise Lightfoot goes to the "tar beach" with her family. There's no sand and no water because this "beach" is the roof of a building. Cassie has a dream: to be free to go wherever she wants for the rest of her life. One night, up on "tar beach," her dreams come true. The stars lift her up, and she flies over the city, claiming the buildings and the city as her own.

<https://youtu.be/h9RKJleFdBU>

COME ON RAIN by Karen Hesse (ages 7-12) **Animated**

When there are days and days of sweltering heat, people hope for rain to cool things off. That's exactly what happens in this story. More than anything, Tess hopes for rain. And when it comes, she and her friends are ready for a surprising joyous celebration!

<https://youtu.be/S62PoA2qCEg>

JEWISH TALES

SOMETHING FROM NOTHING by Phoebe Gilman (ages 5-10) **Read aloud**

**You can borrow this book from our synagogue's library*

Have you ever outgrown a baby blanket or something special, but don't want to throw it away? When Joseph's baby blanket gets tattered and worn out, he doesn't want to get rid of it. See how his grandfather solves this problem over and over in this wonderful Jewish tale.

HINT: Be sure to look at the bottom of each page to see how the mouse family lives like Joseph's underneath the floorboards!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHzav9BS-Fc>

THE KEEPING QUILT by Patricia Polacco (ages 7 and up) **Read aloud**

Do you have something in your family that belonged to a grandparent or other family member from a past generation? In this story, based on Patricia Polacco's family, something is passed on through the generations. It all started with Great-Gramma Anna who arrived from Russia and stitched a quilt from scraps belonging to family members so that the family here would "always remember home." Look for ways that some traditions change over the years and others some remain the same, and how the quilt ties each generation to the ones before.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOjwBt50lpg>

CHIK CHAK SHABBAT by Mara Rockliff (ages 7 and up) **Read aloud**

When Goldie Simcha doesn't joyfully throw open her door to welcome everyone into her apartment for a meal of her famous *cholent*, her neighbors wonder what could be wrong. Little Lali Omar knocks on the door to 5-A, only to learn that Goldie was feeling too sick on Friday to cook, and everyone knows you can't make *cholent* in a hurry, right away, *chik chak*! But it just isn't Shabbat without *cholent*. What can her neighbors do to save the day?

<https://youtu.be/K8GmdIPqdRI>

ITZHAK: A BOY WHO LOVED THE VIOLIN by Tracy Newman (ages 7 and up) **Read aloud**

**You can borrow this book from our synagogue's library*

Have you heard of Itzhak Perlman? He is one of the greatest violinists of all time. But before he became famous, he was simply a boy who loved music! This book, with its beautiful illustrations, takes you on Itzhak's childhood journey—from a boy with a dream to an internationally acclaimed violin virtuoso.

<https://vimeo.com/425112347>

BAGELS FROM BENNY by Aubrey Davis (ages 5-8) **Read aloud**

**You can borrow this book from our synagogue's library*

This story is based on an old Jewish folktale from Spain. It is about a little boy and his grandpa who is a baker who bakes the best bagels in town. When Grandpa explains why God should be the one thanked for the bagels, and not himself, Benny sets out to find the best way to thank God. He decides that the Synagogue would be the best place and does something secretly week after week. The ending surprises everyone.

<https://youtu.be/14gHE3Qh4LI>

LEARN MORE ABOUT ISRAEL

JOIN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG (ages 8+) **Video**

Grab a shovel, roll up your sleeves, and join Shalom Sesame on an archaeological dig in Israel! Learn about the Canaanites, King David, and what it was like to live in Israel 3,000 years ago.

<https://youtu.be/hXdpnVkRMrs>

NOTE: *You will need to sign up for jigzi to access the next 2 sites (info on the link). It's free and easy to do and gives you access to many more activities.*

LET'S DISCOVER ISRAEL (ages 8 - adult) **Interactive learning activity**

Join us on a tour of Israel! EXPLORE AND DISCOVER BY CLICKING ON DIFFERENT ITEMS OR Learn fun facts about special places around the country and test your memory with a fun quiz. Enjoy!

<https://jigzi.org/home/search?q=Israel>

ISRAELI INVENTIONS (ages 8 - adult) **Interactive learning activity**

Scroll through this interactive slideshow to learn about some of the important inventions created by Israelis in the past 70 years. These include, foods, games, machines, technology advances and more!

<https://jigzi.org/home/search?q=inventors&language=en>

MUSIC and MOVEMENT

Did you know that the week of August 2-8 is *International Exercise with Your Child Week*? Here are some fun movements you can do with your parents!

LET'S SING WITH ERIC CARLE'S BOOK: "FROM HEAD TO TOE SONG" (ages 3-6) **Animated**

Come be a part of this silly, fun, and enduring story! You and your parents or friends can join in with this group of animals as they STOMP, CLAP, and THUMP their way through the story, "From Head to Toe" by Eric Carle.

<https://youtu.be/9xxyZSdYEmM>

BOOM CHICKA BOOM 🕺 SUMMER DANCE SONG (ages 4-8) **Video**

"I said Ah boom chicka boom...chicka rocka chicka rocka boom." This silly "repeat after me do and say song" will have you laughing, singing and dancing! Do it alone with the video or grab your family and friends and make it a dance party! Try making up your own verses when it's over. "Aha, Oh yeah, one more time..."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfZ-438Drls>

JUMP JUMP EXERCISE SONG (ages 5-10) **Animated**

Feel the rhythm...hear the beat....and let your spirit get you jumping on your feet! Get ready to sing, dance and exercise together with Mendy and his friends in this exhilarating animated workout video for the whole family

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4698509/jewish/Jump-Jump-Exercise-Song.htm

GAMES

FAMILY MATCHING GAME (ages 5-7) **Interactive game**

In this game of Memory, you flip the cards to make matches of family members. Each card has a picture and the name of the family member (*mother baby sister, aunt, etc.*) to help you make the match.

<https://matchthememory.com/familymemorygame>

Check this out:

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

LEGENDS and FOLKTALES

1. My Grandfather's Coat, Jim Aylesworth **(FICTION)**
2. Naamah and the Ark at Night, a lullaby, Susan Campbell Bartoletti **(FICTION)**
3. The Tale of Mershka the Kvetch, Carol Chapman **(FICTION)**
4. Bagels From Benny, Aubrey Davis **(FICTION)**
5. The Mountain Jews And The Mirror, Ruchama King Feuerman **(FICTION)**
6. Something From Nothing, Phoebe Gilman **(FICTION)**
7. Oy Vey! Life In A Shoe, Bonnie Grubman **(FICTION)**
8. Never Say A Mean Word Again, A Tale from Medieval Spain, Jacqueline Jules **(FICTION)**
9. The Adventures of Hershel of Ostropol, retold by Eric Kimmel **(FICTION)**
10. Good Night Wind, A Yiddish Folktale, Linda Elovitz Marshall **(FICTION)**
11. The Carob Tree, Naomi Shuman and Danny Paller **(FICTION)**
12. The Missing Ingredient – A Jewish Folktale, retold by Naomi Shulman **(FICTION)**
13. The Wonder Child & Other Jewish Folktales, Howard Schwartz **(FICTION)**
14. The Sabbath Lion, A Jewish folktale from Algeria, Howard Schwartz **(FICTION)**
15. Zlateh The Goat and other Stories, Isaac Bashevis Singer **(FICTION)** (*Young Adult*)
16. Joseph Had A Little Overcoat, Simms Taback **(FICTION)**
17. The Adventures of K'Ton Ton, Sadie Rose Weilerstein **(FICTION)**

ISRAEL

1. A Young Person's History of Israel, David Bamberger) **(NONFICTION)**
2. Journey to Jerusalem, Sara Bertisch **(2 copies)** **(NONFICTION)**
3. Snow In Jerusalem, Deborah de Costa **(FICTION)**
4. Chicken Man, Michelle Edwards **(FICTION)**
5. Good Night Israel, Mark Jasper and Anne Rosen **(board book)** **(NONFICTION)**
6. Dinosaur Goes to Israel, Diane Levin Rauchwerger **(FICTION)**
7. Shmulik Paints the Town, Lisa Rose **(FICTION)**
8. The Fifth Wheel (Kibbutz life), Moshe Shamir) **(NONFICTION)**
9. A Concert In The Sand, Tami Shem-Tov and Rachella Sandbank **(FICTION)**

OTHER RELATED BOOKS

1. Itzhak, A Boy Who Loved the Violin- Story of a Young Itzhak Perlman, Tracy Newman **(NONFICTION)**
2. Picnic At Camp Shalom, Jacqueline Jules **(FICTION)**