

# **JUST FOR KIDS - FEBRUARY 2025**

## **FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS**

### **TU B'SHEVAT – SUNSET FEBRUARY 12- 13, 2025** (ages 7-10)

What is Tu B' Shevat? Sometimes it is referred to as “The Birthday of Trees” or “The New Year of Trees”. Find out more here:

- [https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/819824/jewish/What-is-Tu-BShevat.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/819824/jewish/What-is-Tu-BShevat.htm)

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH – FEBRUARY 2025**

The month of February honors the important role Black people play in the story of our country.

#### **LEARN ABOUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH** (ages 8-10) **video**

It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.

<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/fa375094-c2f2-48eb-b65b-51861b5666e0/black-history-month-all-about-the-holidays/?student=true>

#### **FACTS ABOUT SOME FAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN HEROES** (ages 8 and up)

Explore this site to learn about the lives and contributions of some of the many African American inventors, pilots, Supreme Court Justices, freedom fighters, scientists, and astronauts.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/topic/african-american-heroes>

## **STORIES**

### **STORIES - TU B'SHEVAT**

#### **PLANTING PARSLEY** by Pamela Ehrenberg (ages 3-6) **animated**

Many people celebrate this holiday by planting saplings and participating in a meal that like a Tu B'Shevut seder, where fruits, nuts, and wine or grape juice are on the menu. Others also spend plant a tree, work in a garden, eat a special fruit, or do something else to show some love for trees and the earth. Enjoy this story, about two children planting parsley.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfxCfly1WGk>

**\*PEARL MOSKOWITZ'S LAST STAND** by Arthur A. Levine (ages 7-11) **Read aloud**

Pearl loved her street. She loved the people on her street, and she loved the trees on her street -- planted there by her mother years before. So, when the city wants to cut them down, it's time for Pearl to take a stand.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xrV067STh8>

*\*You can borrow this book from our synagogue library*

## **STORIES – DIVERSITY AND BLACK HISTORY**

**THE COLORS OF US** by Karen Katz (ages 4-7) **Read aloud**

Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O58brpCvmRs>

**HAIR LIKE MINE** by La Tashia Perry (ages 5-8) **Read aloud**

This story follows a little girl who doesn't like that her naturally curly hair looks different from the other kids around her. She sets out to find someone with hair like hers and she soon realizes we are all unique and special in our own way.

<https://youtu.be/1xgCUiIPvg4>

**I AM ENOUGH** by Grace Byers (ages 5-8) **Read aloud**

Through simple rhymes and beautiful pictures, the author shows *that regardless of how we look, or what we can do or believe, we are all able, and worthy of respect. She encourages children to recognize diversity and show respect and kindness to others.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbl29C2yC5M>

**HENRY'S FREEDOM BOX** by Ellen Levine (ages 7-12) **Read aloud**

This is based on the true story of Henry Brown, a slave who found a way to mail himself to freedom.

<https://youtu.be/0eGqgRx3bKY>

**THE STORY OF RUBY BRIDGES** by Robert Coles (ages 7-12) **Read aloud**

This is the true story about Ruby Bridges, a very brave 6 year old girl, who in 1960 was the only black child to go to an all white school. She showed great courage and faced many angry people who didn't want her in the school. Her courage changed the lives of many people in our country.

<https://youtu.be/E5iL7H-S99s>

**TEAMMATES** by Peter Golenbock (ages 7-12) **Read aloud**

This is a story of how the courage two men (Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese) changed the face of baseball. Jackie Robinson was the first black player on a Major League baseball team when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1940s, but he faced much hatred and anger from his teammates, baseball fans and other players. This story tells about one fateful day in Cincinnati, when Pee Wee Reese, a white player, took a stand against hate and stood up for Jackie Robinson.

<https://youtu.be/mGzJ9bu7z5c>

## **STORIES – WINTER**

**OWL MOON** by Jane Yolen (ages 6-10) **Read aloud**

Have you ever seen an owl? Join this little girl and her father as go out into the woods on a cold winter night to find an owl. Will they find one? Sssh..you have to be very quiet when you go out owling!

<https://youtu.be/qMTdIHT15Aq>

**SNOWMEN AT NIGHT** by Caralyn Buehner (ages 5-8) **Read aloud**

Have you ever built a snowman and discovered the next day that his grin has gotten a little crooked, or his tree-branch arms have moved? And you've wondered . . . what do snowmen do at night? This delightful story tells you all the secrets of what snowmen do while you are sleeping!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uph9ZuotRqw>

**SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (ages 8-12) **Read aloud**

Aren't snowflakes pretty? Don't you wish you could save them, so you could look at them later? But it's hard to do because they melt so fast! Wilson Bentley, who lived over 100 years ago, wanted to save them too. He discovered a way to photograph them before they melted. He took over 5000 pictures of snowflakes, which is why he came to be known as "Snowflake Bentley".

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

## **JUST FOR FUN**

**WALKING SNOW ART—Simon Beck** (ages 10-adult) **Video**

Simon Beck is a snow artist. He makes colossal designs on enormous snowfields, by stepping through the snow. He treks for hours carving with his feet, sometimes using ski poles and snowshoes, creating snow sculptures over a quarter mile long. They are so big you need to be up high to see the whole picture. He has carved more than 370 drawings worldwide.

**Here is a short video of some of his creations:**

<https://youtu.be/h4GW989lqnE>

**You can learn more about him in this video interview:**

<https://youtu.be/aw3GoPrR-Wk>

**THROW YOUR TOOTH ON THE ROOF** by Selby Beeler (ages 4-7) **Read aloud**

*What do you do when you lose a baby tooth? Throw it on the roof? Bury it in the ground? Wait for a mouse to take it away? Maybe you will start a new tradition after reading this book! Throw Your Tooth on the Roof tells you some of the traditions for losing a tooth that are followed by children around the world.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5C1qmmvkiC>

## **MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**

Check out these **TU B'SHEVAT** related songs:

**IF I WERE A TREE WHAT A TREE I'D BE** (ages 4-6) **animated music video**

Sing along learn about trees and act out the parts of the tree with this fun video

<https://youtu.be/7mt79JW9u18>

**MR. R'S TREE SONG** (ages 6-8) **animated music video**

Learn about Trees -- Roots, and Trunks, and Leaves! Why do we need them? Watch this fun science song video and soon you'll be singing along with the chorus!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7dKRBZVLvI>

***Are you stuck indoors on these cold, icy days? Don't be a couch potato! Check out these activities to get you moving and keep you in shape!***

**SHAKE BREAK** (ages 4-6) **video**

Have fun shaking during this fun, brain break, piano jamming song with Jack Hartmann. Shake out your hands, hips and head with Jack Hartmann to get the wiggles out!

<https://youtu.be/s-8CSs7Xnlo?si=lqt340hK3GRxTSpM>

**WARM UP EXERCISE SONG** (ages 7-10) **video**

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/4698506/jewish/Warm-Up-Exercise-Song.ht](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4698506/jewish/Warm-Up-Exercise-Song.ht)

## **TU B' SHEVAT ACTIVITIES**

**TU B' SHEVAT FRUIT PLATES** (ages 7 and up) **with parent's help**

On Tu B'Shevah we celebrate the new year for trees by eating fruit, especially the seven fruits of Israel which include pomegranates, dates, figs and grapes.

Make these fun fruit plates to represent trees in each season - summer, fall, winter and spring.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/2461849/jewish/Tu-BShevat-Fruit-Plates.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2461849/jewish/Tu-BShevat-Fruit-Plates.htm)

**FROZEN YOGURT GRAPES (ages 5 and up)**

On Tu B'Shevat it's traditional to eat fruit—especially some of the fruits of Israel: figs, dates, pomegranates, grapes and olives.

Here's an easy way to jazz up your grapes and make them a little more fun.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/2846488/jewish/Frozen-Yogurt-Grapes.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2846488/jewish/Frozen-Yogurt-Grapes.htm)

*Check this out:*

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

**TU B' SHEVAT**

1. Pearl Moskowitz's Last Stand, Arthur A. Levine (**FICTION**)
2. It's Tu B' Shevat, Edie Stoltz Zolkower (**board book**) (**NONFICTION**)