



The Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education  
Seidman Educational Resource Center



A SELECTED LIST OF BOOKS ON ISRAEL  
2004 - 2005

Compiled by Nancy M. Messinger,  
Director of Educational Resources

Ages 5 - 8

- Blumenthal, Scott E. *The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt*. Springfield, NJ: Behrman House, Inc., 2003.  
A visit to Israel by Daniel and his parents is guided by a scavenger hunt. The family, along with Daniel's Israeli cousin Rivkah, visits Haifa, the Galilee, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Judean Desert and the Negev, and Eilat. Includes colorful stickers and a Certificate of Achievement. A teacher's guide by Anne Berman-Waldorf is available.
- Bogot, Howard I. *Shalom, Salaam, Peace*. New York, NY: CCAR Press, 1999.  
Hopeful book about the meaning of peace for Israelis and Arabs.
- Carmi, Giora. *And Shira Imagined*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 1988.  
A young girl visits modern Israel and envisions the history of the sites she sees. The book uses black and white drawings to depict Israeli sites and color images to portray Shira's imagined Israel.
- da Costa, Deborah. *Snow in Jerusalem*. Morton Grove, IL: A. Whitman, 2001.  
Although they live in different quarters of Jerusalem, a Jewish boy and a Muslim boy are surprised to discover they are caring for the same cat.
- Gresko, Marcia S. *Israel*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 2000.  
Filled with color photographs, this book introduces readers to the people, land, government, religions, languages, customs and lifestyles of Israel.  
Part of the "Ticket to . . ." series.
- Grossman, Laurie M. *Colors of Israel*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 2002.  
Using color as a theme, this book explores the history, Jewish and Arab cultures, and landscape of Israel. The words for the colors are presented in English, Hebrew, Arabic and transliteration.
- Rouss, Sylvia A. *Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel: A Book about the Five Senses*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing Co., Inc., 2002.  
Sammy Spider stows away on a toy airplane and joins the Shapiro family on their trip to Israel. From the beaches of Tel Aviv and the Dead Sea to Jerusalem and the Negev, discover the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures of Israel with Sammy!

Segal, Sheila. *Joshua's Dream: A Journey to the Land of Israel*. New York, NY: UAHC Press, 1992.

The Zionist miracle comes to life in this story of a young boy named Joshua. While listening to the story of his Great-Aunt Rivka, the *halutza*, he dreams of going to Israel to participate in making the desert bloom by planting his own tree.

Sidor, Ephraim, Hanah Kaminski, and Gil Elkabetz. *The Animated Israel: A Homecoming*. London, England: Scopus Films, Ltd., 1987.

Two children, a tree, and a bird make a pact to stay faithful to each other forever - even through exile, persecution and wars. With charming illustrations and moving text, this book conveys the connection of the Jewish people to Israel.

Sofer, Barbara. *Shalom, Haver*. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1996.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's life - from family photographs and newspaper archives - his army service to his funeral. In English and Hebrew with many color photos.

Steiner, Connie Colker. *On Eagles' Wings and Other Things*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 1987.

After World War II children from various parts of the world arrive in Israel to make it their new home.

### Ages 8 - 12

Adler, David A. *Our Golda: The Story of Golda Meir*. New York, NY: Puffin Books, 1986.

A biography of the Israeli prime minister and world leader, emphasizing her early childhood and youth in Russia and America.

Burstein, Chaya M. *A Kid's Catalog of Israel*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1998.

Eclectic volume overflowing with data, stories, humor, crafts, etc. Entertaining and informative - an excellent resource for teachers and students.

Cytron, Barry D. *Myriam Mendilow: Mother of Jerusalem*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Co., 1994.

Tells the story of Myriam Mendilow, who started a number of programs designed to help the elderly citizens of Jerusalem. One of her programs is "Lifeline," which gives older people the chance to practice various useful crafts, which are then sold. The book includes photos, source notes, and an index.

Cohen, Barbara. *The Secret Grove*. New York, NY: UAHC Press, 1985.

A realistic retrospective story about a chance meeting between an Israeli boy and an Arab boy, highlighting the similarities and differences in cultures and attitudes. Excellent introduction to a discussion of current Arab-Israeli conflicts. Teacher's guide available.

Dolphin, Laurie. *Neveh Shalom*. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc., 1993.

Text and color photos of two 10½-year-old boys, one Jewish and one Arab, who attend school in a unique community near Jerusalem where Jews and Arabs live together in peace.

Drucker, Malka. *Eliezer Ben-Yehuda: The Father of Modern Hebrew*. New York, NY: Lodestar Books, 1987.

This biography for young children tells the story of the man who almost single-handedly revived the Hebrew language. Against overwhelming odds, he created the modern Hebrew dictionary and fulfilled his dream of making Hebrew a language written and spoken by Jews around the world.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Wailing Wall*. New York, NY: Macmillan/London; Collier Macmillan, 1989.

The Wall in an ecumenical presentation, its history concisely traced, with an emphasis on events before 70 C.E. Illustrated with dramatic black and white paintings.

Geras, Adele. *Golden Windows and Other Stories of Jerusalem*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1993.

Five interesting stories, told through the adventures of a young girl, that describe what it was like to grow up in Jerusalem in the first half of the 20th century.

Grossman, Laurie M. *Children of Israel*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 2000.

Using numerous photographs and text, this book introduces the history, geography, and cultures of Israel through the daily lives of the Jewish and Arab children who live there. Part of "The World's Children" series.

Gurko, Miriam. *Theodor Herzl: The Road to Israel*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1988.

Concise biography with emphasis on Herzl's efforts to re-establish a Jewish homeland.

Kustanowitz, Shulamite. *Henrietta Szold: Israel's Helping Hand*. New York, NY: Viking, 1990.

Biography of the founder of Hadassah, who also headed the effort to rescue children from Nazi Germany and was responsible for youth aliyah.

Rabinovich, Abraham. *Teddy Kollek, Builder of Jerusalem*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1996.

Clear, well-written biography of one of Israel's "personalities," former mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek. Enthusiasm of and for the subject shines through the words.

Randall, Ronne. *Food and Festivals Israel*. Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughan, 1999.

Color photos of foods and celebrations. Describes how different kinds of food common in various regions of Israel are grown and prepared, and the role they play in holidays and celebrations. Includes recipes.

Rouss, Sylvia. *Tali's Jerusalem Scrapbook*. New York, NY: Pitspopany Press, 2003

While collecting pictures for her scrapbook, a nine-year-old girl contemplates what is special about her home, Jerusalem, and its inhabitants. She is also saddened by the dangers that keep her family in New York from visiting.

Silverman, Maida. *Israel: The Founding of a Nation*. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam, Inc., 1998.

This book traces the history of the Jews from Biblical times to the present and describes the events that led to the establishment of the modern State of Israel. Includes bibliography, recommendations for further readings, and index.

Slavik, Diane. *Daily Life in Ancient and Modern Jerusalem*. Minneapolis, MN: Runestone Press, 2001.

This book explores everyday life in Jerusalem, from the time of the city's founding through Biblical times and the Middle Ages up to the present. Includes black & white and color photographs and illustrations. Part of the "Cities through Time" series.

Smith, Debbie. *Israel, the People*. New York, NY: Crabtree Publishing Co., 1999.

This book introduces the history, people, daily life, military service, education and other aspects of life in Israel today.

Yanofsky, Tsivia. *Take Me to the Holy Land: A Youngster's Tour of Eretz Yisrael*. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 2000.

Using history, *midrash*, personal feelings and full-color photographs, the author presents an educational travelogue designed to introduce children to Israel.

Waldman, Neil. *The Golden City*. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Shuster, 1995.

A beautifully illustrated history of Jerusalem from Biblical times to the Crusades with a brief jump into modern times. Includes the place of Jerusalem in Jewish thought.

### Young Adult

Abbey, Alan D. *Journey of Hope: The Story of Ilan Ramon, Israel's First Astronaut*.

Jerusalem/New York: Gefen Publishing House, 2003.

This book chronicles the journey of Ilan Ramon k"z, from air force pilot and military hero to his days as an astronaut. It includes never-before-told details of his participation in the daring Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor and behind-the-scenes information about his training, family and friends.

Amdur, Richard. *Chaim Weitzmann*. New York, NY: Chelsea House, 1988.

Biography of the scientist/Zionist who helped effect the Balfour Declaration, was the architect for large-scale settlement, led the WZO for twenty years, and tried to reconcile the goals of militant Zionists with those of the Palestinian Arabs.

----- *Menachem Begin*. New York, NY: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

Documents the development of a militant Zionist leader: his law studies in Poland, arrest, migration to Israel, the underground resistance, rise to power, peace with Egypt and the war in Lebanon.

- Ben-Artzi Pelossof, Noa. *In the Name of Sorrow and Light*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996.  
Autobiography of author/biographical materials on her grandfather, Yitzhak Rabin. Expresses her views that are pro peace process. Includes the eulogy she gave at his funeral. Provides a warm family portrait.
- Finkelstein, Norman H. *Theodor Herzl*. New York, NY: Franklin Watts, 1987.  
Examines the life of the Austrian journalist who became the founder of the modern Zionist movement.
- Holliday, Laurel. *Children of Israel, Children of Palestine*. New York, NY: Simon and Shuster, 1998.  
Israeli Jewish and Palestinian men, women and children, tell of their dreams and fears growing up in a land of turmoil.
- Kranz, Hazel. *Daughter of My People: Henrietta Szold and Hadassah*. New York, NY: E. P. Dutton, 1987.  
A readable biography which captures Szold's spirit. Taken from historical material, with lively recaps of important events.
- McAuley, Karen. *Golda Meir*. New York, NY: Chelsea House, 1985.  
Story of this powerful leader as kibbutz worker, social activist, politician, ambassador, and prime minister. Excellent photographs.
- Roseman, Kenneth D. *Jeremiah's Promise - An Adventure in Modern Israel*. New York, NY: UAHC Press, 2002.  
Assuming the role of the main character, a young Jewish survivor of the Holocaust in Poland who immigrates to Palestine in 1945 and lives in the new State of Israel, the reader must make choices which will affect his family, his residence, his career, his country, and his sense of identity as a Jew. Part of the "Do-It-Yourself Adventure" series.
- Schur, Maxine Rose. *Hannah Szenes: A Song of Light*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1996.  
A biography of the Jewish heroine, Hannah Szenes, whose mission to help rescue European Jews in World War II cost her her life.
- Shteiner, Puah. *Forever My Jerusalem*. Jerusalem/New York: Feldheim Publishers, 1987.  
A personal account of the siege and surrender of Jerusalem's Old City in 1948, told through the perspective of a young girl who is a sixth-generation Jerusalemite. After reunification, the family returned home to the newly reconstructed Jewish quarter. Translated from the Hebrew (*Mi-tokh ha-hafekhah*) by Bracha Slae. Includes photographs.

Singer, Alex. *Alex: Building a Life - The Story of an American who Fell Defending Israel, Told in His Letters, Journals and Drawings*. Hewlett, NY: Gefen Publishing House, 1996. Letters, journal entries and drawings tell the story of Alex Singer, א"ל. Included are entries from his 1982 visit to the USSR and to his aliyah to Israel in 1984, through 1987. The final entry is an unfinished letter found in his belongings after Alex was killed in battle in Israel on his 25th birthday. Moving and inspirational. V-1160, *Alex: His Words and Drawings*, a video based on this book, is available in SERC.

Speregen, Devra Newberger. *Ilan Ramon, Jewish Star*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 2004.

This inspirational biography about Israel's first astronaut portrays the life of Ilan Ramon, א"ל, a national hero who brought a sense of hope and pride to his country and Jews everywhere, during the ill-fated voyage of the space shuttle, *Columbia*.

Vail, John. *David Ben-Gurion*. New York, NY: Chelsea House Publishers, 1987.

Story of the legendary first prime minister of Israel: his arrival in Palestine in 1906 to settle in the Galilee, his moves to journalism and politics, his successful military strategy in the War for Independence, and his leadership of *Mapai*.

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