

Literary Recommendations for Jewish American Heritage Month

This is a non-exhaustive list of books that celebrate various aspects of Jewish identity or Jewish historical figures and Jewish authors who write about both Jewish identity and other subject areas.

Please share this list with your school librarians or your local community libraries to create a display of books that center Jewish American identities and peoplehood and a display of famous Jewish authors!

Elementary

- *A Perfect Fit: How Lena “Lane” Bryant Changed the Shape of Fashion* by Mara Rockliff
- *A Poem for Peter* by Andrew Davis Pinkney
- *A Queen to the Rescue: The Story of Henrietta Szold, Founder of Hadassah* by Nancy Churnin
- *Abuelita's Secret Matzahs* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
- *All of a Kind Family* (series) by Sydney Taylor
- *Always an Olivia: A Remarkable Family History* by Carolivia Herron
- *Amazing Abe*, by Norman H. Finkelstein
- *As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom* by Richard Michelson and Raul Colon
- *Brave Girl* by Michelle Markel
- *Can Sophie Change the World?* By Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- *Castle on Hester Street* by Boris Kulikov
- *Dear Mr. Dickens* by Nancy Churnin
- *Elan, Son of Two Peoples* by Heidi Smith Hyde and Mikela Prevost
- *Emma's Poem*, by Claire Nivola
- *Gittel's Journey*, by Leslea Newman
- *Hammerin' Hank* by Yona Zeldis McDonough
- *Hank on First*, by Stephen Krensky
- *Hannah's Way* by Linda Glaser
- *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsberg Makes Her Mark* by Debbie Levy, Elizabeth Baddeley
- *Jalapeño Bagels* by Natasha Wing
- *Molly's Pilgrim*, by Barbara Cohen

- *Mrs. Katz and Tush* by Patricia Polacco
- *My Name is Aviva* by Leslea Newman
- *Naming Liberty* by Jane Yolen
- *Not This Turkey!* by Jessica Steinberg
- *Pavel and the Tree Army* by Heidi Smith Hyde
- *Rivka's First Thanksgiving* by Elsa Okon Rael
- *The Legend of Freedom Hill* by Linda Jacobs Altman
- *The Memory Coat* by Elvira Woodruff
- *The Only One Club* by Jane Naliboff
- *Tía Fortuna's New Home: A Jewish Cuban Journey* by Ruth Behar
- *Two New Years* by Richard Ho*
- *What Jewish Looks Like* by Liz Kleinrock and Caroline Kusin Pritchard*
- *What Makes Someone A Jew?* By Lauren Seidman*
- *When Ruth Bader Ginsberg Chewed 100 Sticks of Gum*, by Mark Weakland and Daniela Volpari
- *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?* By Jonah Winter

Middle School Grades

- *Alma Presses Play* by Tina Cane
- *Aviva vs. the Dybbuk* by Mari Lowe
- *Falling Short* by Ernesto Cisneros
- *Hidden Powers: Lise Meitner's Call to Science* by Jeannine Atkins
- *Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar
- *Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein* by Susan Goldman Rubin
- *My Basmati Bat Mitzvah* by Paula J. Freedman*
- *RBG's Brave and Brilliant Women: 33 Jewish Women to Inspire Everyone* by Nadie Epstein
- *Saint Ivy: Kind at All Costs* by Laurie Morrison
- *The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen* by Isaac Blum
- *The Whole Story of Half a Girl* by Veera Hiranandani*
- *The Length of a String* by Elissa Brent Weissman
- *This Is Just a Test* by Wendy Wan-Long Shang and Madelyn Rosenberg*
- *Two Tribes* by Emily Bowen Cohen
- *What Jewish Looks Like* by Liz Kleinrock and Caroline Kusin Pritchard*
- *Women Who Broke the Rules: Judy Blume* by Kathleen Krull
- Biographies in the Who Is/Who Was book series including:

Ruth Bader Ginsberg
 Judy Blume
 Charlie Chaplin
 Bob Dylan

Harry Houdini
 Ralph Lauren
 Stan Lee
 Harvey Milk

Stephen Spielberg
 Gloria Steinem
 R.L. Stine
 Levi Strauss

* Indicates AANHPI Jewish author or story



Albert Einstein
Anne Frank

Maurice Sendak
Dr. Seuss

The Three Stooges

Young Adult

- *A Million Quiet Revolutions* by Robin Gow
- *All I Could Never Be* by Anzia Yezierska
- *Alma Presses Play* by Tina Cane*
- *As if on Cue* by Marisa Kanter
- *Chloe Leiberman (Sometimes Wong)* by Carrie Rosten*
- *Color Me In* by Natasha Diaz
- *From Dust, a Flame* by Rebecca Podos
- *From Sarah to Sydney: The Woman Behind All-of-a-Kind Family* by June Cummins and Alexandra Dunietz
- *How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish* by Ilan Stavans and Josh Lambert
- *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love* by Dani Shapiro
- *Koshersoul: The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew* by Michael Twitty
- *Kugel and Frijoles: Latino Jews in the United States* by Laura Limonic
- *Lessons in Fusion* by Primrose Madayag Knazan*
- *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok
- *Measure of a Man: From Auschwitz Survivor to Presidents' Tailor* by Martin Greenfield
- *Once we were Slaves: The Extraordinary Journey of a Multi-Racial Jewish Family* by Laura Arnold Leibman
- *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill
- *Speaking Yiddish to Chickens: Holocaust Survivors on South Jersey Poultry Farms* by Seth Stern
- *Strange Creatures* by Phoebe North
- *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon
- *The Chosen*, Chaim Potok
- *The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shaped Modern America* by Christopher Gorham
- *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- *The Jewish Deli: An Illustrated Guide to the Chosen Food*
- *They'll Never Catch Us* by Jessica Goodman
- *We Are Inevitable* by Gayle Forman
- *Whistle: A New Gotham City Hero* by E. Lockhart

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Jewish Authors

Sholem Aleichem
Hannah Arendt
Isaac Asimov
Judy Blume
Mel Brooks
Michael Chabon
Anita Diamant
Nora Ephron
Anne Frank
Neil Gaiman
Daniel Handler
Joseph Heller
Alice Hoffman
Franz Kafka
Ezra Jack Keats

Eric Kimmel
Liz Kleinrock
Nicole Krauss
Primo Levi
James McBride
Arthur Miller
Lesléa Newman
Boris Pasternak
Patricia Polacco
Chaim Potok
Ayn Rand
Michael Rosen
Philip Roth
Jonathan Safran Foer
J.D. Salinger

Maurice Sendak
Dr. Seuss
Ari Shapiro
Shel Silverstein
Art Spiegelman
Gertrude Stein
Gloria Steinem
R.L. Stine
Barbara Streisand
Sydney Taylor
Michael Twitty
Leon Uris
Judith Viorst
Elie Wiesel
Jane Yolen
Isaac Bashevis Singer

