



Night Lights

By Barbara Diamond Goldin

Jewish life is filled with symbolism – from the custom of using two loaves of challah for the Friday evening meal (representing the double portion of manna for Shabbat that rained down on the Israelites in the desert) to the eight Hanukkah candles (which remind us of the oil that miraculously lasted for eight days in Maccabean times). *Night Lights* is filled with ways in which we can relate contemporary Sukkot practices to our shared history. The open-roofed *sukkah* is a reminder not only of the impermanence of life in ancient times but of our need to be ready for changes that inevitably occur in life today. Decorating the *sukkah* with autumn’s produce and cheerful trimmings is a lesson in making the most of each day. The very act of spending time outside in the *sukkah* can be, for many of us, an essential reminder of what nature offers in things such as fresh air and the sound of the wind. Let this book help your family think of Sukkot as a gift of remembrance and thanksgiving for freedom, the abundance of the harvest, and all of nature’s gifts.

Often, children have no way of knowing that anyone else has the same feelings or worries. *Night Lights* offers a marvelous opportunity for family discussion in which these misconceptions can help be put to rest. Your children can learn from this Sukkot story that both the little brother and the big sister have concerns about what might “go bump in the night.” And how perfect is the subtle message that the fears children have today were no doubt shared by other youngsters long ago? Once out in the open, fears begin to lose their power. One special way of helping your children deal with their own concerns is by sharing with them some childhood fear you may have had and how you overcame it.

About The PJ Library®

The PJ Library is an award-winning initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in partnership with your local Jewish Community. On a monthly basis, The PJ Library sends out high quality, age appropriate Jewish children’s books to participating families across the country. Through providing these books, The PJ Library’s goal is to help families explore the timeless core values of Judaism and to transmit these values to a new generation. To learn more about The PJ Library visit www.pjlibrary.org or call your local community representative.



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