



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

Concepts for Board Books and Picture Books for Ages 1, 2 and 3 Updated July 2015

MANUSCRIPTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO PJLIBRARY@HGF.ORG

PJ Library chooses 88 titles each year for its rapidly-growing North American program. Books must compete favorably with the best secular children's literature; only the highest quality books will do. PJ seeks stories with Jewish content that children will want to read again and again. Each book must appeal to families across a wide range of Jewish knowledge and observance. We offer the following topics to inspire stories for our participants, ages 6 months through 3 years.

First Mitzvah Books

These books would briefly define the concept of *mitzvah*. In addition:

1. The *mitzvot* described in these books should be actions with which toddlers, 2s and 3s might be familiar and ones that young children are capable of performing by themselves or with minimal adult help.
2. Possible subcategories of these *mitzvah* books include:
 - ❖ Living green -- ways young children can preserve the environment and help care for the earth (*tikkun olam*)
 - ❖ Caring for animals
 - ❖ Welcoming guests (*hachnasat orchim*)
 - ❖ Being a good friend
 - ❖ Showing respect/honor (*kavod*) to parents, teachers, and other elders
 - ❖ Using the phrase *Kol Ha Kavod* – in which the phrase *kol ha kavod* (“congratulations” or “good job”) could be repeated in relation to kind, honorable, *mensch*-like actions.
 - ❖ Visiting a nursing home

Holiday Books

PJ Library is in need of new books on most holidays for our youngest age groups. For these young ages, we prefer books that focus on a single holiday.

Possible holidays:

- ❖ Hanukkah
- ❖ Passover
- ❖ Purim
- ❖ Rosh Hashanah
- ❖ Shabbat
- ❖ Shavuot
- ❖ Sukkot
- ❖ Tu B'Shevat

Jewish Song Books

These books would contain illustrated versions of popular Jewish children's songs. It would be helpful if the words could be sung to a tune already familiar to many adults. PJ Library is also interested in illustrated lullabies for the very young.

Israel Books

These books would show the beauty, uniqueness, and diversity of the Land of Israel while including text/story line appropriate to the age.

Possible topics:

- ❖ Shapes of Israel
- ❖ Sounds of Israel
- ❖ Animals of Israel
- ❖ Hebrew words that are easy to say and understand

Spiritual Books

- ❖ offering thanks for all that we have / gifts we've been given
- ❖ thanks for the gifts and qualities of the human body
- ❖ *Shalom* (Peace)
- ❖ *S'licha* (Sorry)
- ❖ *Shalom Bayit* (Peace at home)

For each of the topics in this document, PJ Library is interested in showing diversity and the multi-cultural nature of Judaism today. Based on parent feedback, we encourage books with a contemporary feel. The majority of books submitted to PJ Library for this age range are written with female main characters. We ask that authors consider creating stories with a male main character.