

## **CHILDREN'S HEBREW BOOKS, VIDEOS/DVDs, AND WEBSITES: WHERE DO I FIND THEM, AND WHAT'S NEW OUT THERE?**

**Presented by Janice Resnick Levine, Judaics Media Specialist at  
The Epstein Solomon Schechter School of Atlanta**

**Description:** There is a large world of Hebrew children's books, videos, and websites available now. Since Hebrew books and videos for children are produced mainly for Israelis how do we find suitable ones for our day school, synagogue, or resource libraries here in the U.S.? This presentation will focus on how to choose Hebrew children's materials, where to purchase them, a refresher on cataloging those materials, and a glimpse at some of the newer Hebrew children's books and videos one can purchase for your library. It will also highlight some of the Hebrew children's websites available for learning to read and speak Hebrew.

**Janice Resnick Levine** has been Judaics Media Specialist at the Epstein Solomon Schechter School of Atlanta since 1994. Prior to that she was part-time librarian for the Temple Beth El Hebrew School Library in Syracuse, NY. She has also worked as an information specialist for Laubach Literacy International and Central City Business Institute in Syracuse, NY. She received a BS in Education from the Pennsylvania State University and a Masters in Library Science from Syracuse University.

---

This is an update of a session that I gave at the AJL Convention in San Diego in June, 2001. Consequently, there will be some of the same information in this paper.

There is a large selection of Hebrew children's books and videos from Israel available now for use in the United States. Many of the Hebrew videos are now also

available on DVD. How do we find suitable Hebrew children's materials for our libraries? Where does one buy these materials? How does one catalog them? These Hebrew books and videos/DVDs are mainly produced for use by Israeli children. One needs to be selective in choosing materials for your day school, synagogue or resource center library that will be understandable by American children where Hebrew is their second language. My presentation is all about the world of Hebrew children's books and videos. I have also included in my handouts a sampling of Hebrew and Judaics websites for children.

At the Epstein Solomon Schechter School of Atlanta we have approximately 675 students from age 2 in our preschool through Grade 8. As the Judaics Media Specialist it is my job to purchase and catalog all the Judaic and Hebrew materials for the Media Center, serve as a Judaics resource person to the teachers and students, do Jewish book talks with classes, and do Hebrew Storytime once a month with all classes from Grades 1-5. Once I read the children a story they then check out Hebrew books once a month. The books circulate for one week just like our English books and are returned via their English classes the following week. (unless they need more time for book reports) Sometimes book check-out is optional-sometimes the older classes do book reports and check-out is mandatory. All of our students, preschool through Grade 8, come to the Media Center either for storytime, instruction, book check-out and/or research.

When I began doing my Hebrew Storytimes at Epstein I realized that I did not have nearly enough Hebrew books for the children to do check-out on a regular basis. So, I began my ongoing quest for appropriate Hebrew books from Israel at a reading level accessible to children in a Jewish day school environment. (at our school the children learn in English ½ of the day and in Hebrew ½ of the day, Grades 1-5) I also have been purchasing Hebrew videos for use in the Media Center and the classrooms that complement our curriculum.

### **SOURCES FOR THE PURCHASE OF HEBREW CHILDREN’S MATERIALS**

Where do you start? Hebrew children’s book distributors do not seem to believe in annotated catalogs and often do not even list the reading levels of children’s books they are selling. It is often a guessing game to decide what to buy. It takes a while to become familiar with authors and series that one knows will work for children here in the U.S. Another challenge is to find Hebrew books that are understandable and interesting to children in Grades 5-8, and are not too juvenile for them in content.

I would suggest you first explore your local Jewish bookstores and distributors to see what is available. When you order locally you do not have to pay shipping charges and perhaps your store will have Hebrew books in-house that you can peruse for attractiveness and reading level.

I do not purchase my materials directly from Israel because of the shipping charges. Some people do purchase books directly from Israel and say that it is more cost effective. Since the book prices are cheaper in Israel it could balance out the higher shipping charges. It is worth exploring that option if you have the time! I like being able to talk to my distributors via phone as well as via email which is easier to do with U.S. sources.

I purchase my Hebrew materials from two main sources here in the U.S. on the East Coast- the Israel Book Shop, located in the Boston area, in Brookline, and Sifrutake, located in Brooklyn, N.Y. At the AJL Convention in Oakland I just discovered one more possible resource, Orly’s Bookstore, an online bookstore based in Sunnyvale, CA in the San Francisco Bay area. Orly specializes in Hebrew books from Israel. All 3 of the above sources offer **library discounts**. I have listed more detailed contact information on those and one other purchasing source on one of my session handouts. (All of my convention handouts/bibliographies are available on request-see my contact information at the end of this paper)

**The Israel Book Shop in Brookline, Massachusetts** is an incredible resource for purchasing Israeli materials, as well as other Jewish educational resources. They have a large inventory of books, curriculum materials, videos, music, maps, etc. You name it- they probably sell it! I work with **Risa Krohn** there who is a great resource person- she recommends the latest Hebrew materials for whatever reading level I am looking for. Her phone number is 1-800-323-7723. The Israel Book Shop now has a website which is expanding daily- [www.israelbookshop.com](http://www.israelbookshop.com). The website has a limited selection of some of the Hebrew materials available at their store. If you go to “Educational Resources” on their website and look at “Children’s Literature from Israel” you will find some of the

books they sell listed, with a picture of the cover and a sample page. I handed out at convention a very nice long listing from them entitled "Israeli Children's Literature New Releases Spring 2003". You can contact Risa Krohn for a copy of that book list. They also publish many other useful lists of materials, such as "New Releases Spring 2005," (materials in Hebrew and in English), "Passover Resources 2005", etc. Those lists are now available online at [www.geocities.com/hakollamoreh](http://www.geocities.com/hakollamoreh) and are worth checking out! I find their lists to be good tools to find out about many of the latest books and videos that are available both in Hebrew and English. Though the lists are not annotated they are very useful.

**Sifrutake**, located in Brooklyn, N.Y. is another great resource for the purchase of Hebrew materials. The contact person for schools and other institutional libraries is Rikky Toledo. They specialize in Israeli materials -books, videos/DVD's, and music CD's, for children, as well as for adults. Their phone number is 1-800-737-8853. They have an extensive online catalog in Hebrew and English at [www.sifrutake.com](http://www.sifrutake.com). You can also get on their mailing list for their print catalogs which are all in Hebrew.

I have not used Israbook/Gefen Publishing House but I have included them on my handout because I like their monthly email listing of the latest Hebrew children's bestsellers. This is a great way to learn about some of the newest books that have been published in Israel. You can get on their email list by contacting Andy Kohlenberg at [israbook@gefenpublishing.com](mailto:israbook@gefenpublishing.com) Most of their Hebrew books are shipped directly from Israel so you might want to check out their prices and shipping charges before placing an order. They sell both educational resources and books for independent reading. They do have a few Hebrew books in their warehouse here in the U.S., such as the Dr. Seuss books in Hebrew.

Orly's Bookstore is an online bookstore based in Sunnyvale, California, owned by Orly Krepner. She makes visits to schools in her area, by appointment, bringing books based on the school's needs. Her website is located at [www.orlysbookstore.com](http://www.orlysbookstore.com) She has quite a large selection of children's Hebrew books.

I find that all the above sources often have more books than those listed on their websites and they will also order you other books that you want upon request.

Now that you have some suggestions where to buy materials- what books and videos should you actually buy for your library?

### **WHAT HEBREW BOOKS AND VIDEOS/DVDS ARE AVAILABLE AND HOW DO I CHOOSE?**

At first glance trying to decide which Hebrew children's books and videos to buy seems an overwhelming task! There are usually no book reviews available like we have for English books. (and when there are, they are in Hebrew and not accessible to all of us). I rely therefore on my resource people at the Israel Book Shop and Sifrutake to help me with Hebrew book and video selection.

I often purchase a video/DVD that is a dramatization or animation of a book that I already have in my collection. You can then reinforce story you have read or told by later showing the children the video in the media center or the classroom. A selection of some of the videos I like is found at the end of my longer bibliography. Most of them are now also available in DVD format.

I have just discovered a series of Hebrew videos for middle and high school students that have been produced by the Ma'ale School of Television, Film and the Arts in Jerusalem. A listing of these videos can be found at [www.maale.co.il](http://www.maale.co.il) . They are short, interesting, contemporary Israeli films. You can contact Hedva Goldschmidt for more information at [hedvago@bezeqint.net](mailto:hedvago@bezeqint.net) . We just ordered two of their videos, EICHA and BAT YIFTACH to try them out with our middle school students. If you want to find out how they worked out with our students, feel free to contact me! You can order the Hebrew Ma'ale videos with or without English subtitles. Esther Nussbaum at the Ramaz Upper School in New York City has previewed many of their videos and you may want to contact her as well if you want more information. ([esther@ramaz.org](mailto:esther@ramaz.org) )

Use the websites of the Israel Book Shop, Sifrutake, and Orly's Bookstore. It is nice to be able to see what a book looks like before you purchase it and some of the websites now give you a sample page so you can glimpse the book's reading level. If you live in an area where they sell Hebrew books try to make the time to visit that bookstore periodically to look at Hebrew books in stock. Unfortunately, the appearance of a book inside and out does play a major factor in whether a child will actually pick up a Hebrew book and read it! Is the cover attractive? Are there a few words, a medium amount, or too many Hebrew words on each page? Is the Hebrew print large or is it too small? Does the book have nice illustrations? These are all things to consider when choosing Hebrew books for children.

I have compiled a list of many of the Hebrew books and videos that my students and I like that have been acquired over the years for our Hebrew children's collection. It is not meant to be a comprehensive list but it is a good starting point! There are a lot of choices out there and great new materials are coming out every year!

I have also compiled a list of my favorite books that I use for Hebrew Storytime. Most of the books on the Storytime list can also be enjoyed by children for independent reading. Both bibliographies are available on request from me at [jlevine@epsteinatlanta.org](mailto:jlevine@epsteinatlanta.org) . The bibliography entitled "Children's Hebrew Books and Videos" is an update of my list from San Diego from 2001.

**BEGINNING HEBREW READING:** When my day school first graders start taking out Hebrew books they do not even know all of the Aleph-Bet or the Hebrew vowels. They therefore start with Aleph-Bet books (such as Michelle Edward's book, "Alef-Bet: A Hebrew Alphabet Book" and the book from Ktav, "Alefbet and Hebrew Dictionary Flip Flap Book" ) , as well as books that have pictures and the corresponding Hebrew words, such as the books in the "**Temunot Le-Pa-otot**" and "**Temunot Min Ha-Teva**" series. (to read the Hebrew series books I just mentioned beginning readers will need some

parental assistance at first) Around mid-year, once the children know the whole Hebrew alphabet and all the vowels, and can read independently, they progress to easy Hebrew readers, such as the books in the series, “**Sifriya Ketana Sheli**” by Mirik Snir or the series “**Korim Kemo Gedolim.**” The “**Shel Mi**” series by David Bennett is also a good beginning series.

You do need to be careful-some of the books in the beginning Hebrew reading series have much harder Hebrew words than others. Some I save for second grade or I do not use them at all. Since they are written for Israelis some have very hard words that I do not even know! I have listed in my bibliography some of the ones in those series that I like the best. Consult my bibliography for a more detailed listing of books for beginning Hebrew readers. I usually start with just one or two books in a series to see if I like them. My most popular books I may later buy in multiple copies. You may want to work out with your Hebrew books distributor the option of being able to return books that prove to be too hard or just not appropriate for your library patrons.

In **SECOND GRADE** in our day school the children are still reading some of the harder beginning Hebrew readers. They also start reading easy picture books, including the easier Dr. Seuss books, such as “**Seferegel**” and “**Beni Ben Buni Matai Kvar Telech?**” In **THIRD GRADE** the children continue to read picture books and also start reading the books in the “**Gesher Kal**” series. **Paul Kor** has written a nice set of three picture books about **Kaspiyon**, a little silver fish. I read all three of them to my students in Grades 3 and 4 and they love them. There is also a Kaspiyon video available that they watch. (available in DVD too) Paul Kor is a great author to have in your collection. Though the print is small in his books the stories are very readable, with great illustrations, and the children enjoy his books.

Another story that the children love to hear in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is the story of “**Bentzi**” (ELMER in English), a multi-colored elephant who wants to be gray like everyone else, written by David McKee. **Pnina Kass** has also written a nice set of books about **Berale**, a snail who has various adventures. A few of the Hebrew classics that are good for storytime and are also available on video are the following: “**Eliezer Ve-ha-Gezer**”, by **Levin Kipnis**, about a farmer that grows a huge carrot and cannot pull it out of the ground on his own, and “**Mitz Petel**” by **Chaya Shenhav** (available in DVD), about a giraffe and a lion that are trying to figure out who lives in a mysterious house on the edge of the woods.

There is a listing in my bibliography of picture books for children in Grades 2-5, some by Israeli authors and some that are translations of English picture books. I try to avoid purchasing only translations and buy many books from Israeli authors so the children are exposed to new stories and authors. There are many wonderful Hebrew children’s books by Israeli authors such as **Shula Modan**, **Meir Shalev**, **Chaya Shenhav**, **Shlomo Abas**, **Pnina Kass**, **Mirik Snir**, etc.

The children still enjoy picture books in Grades 4-8. Many of the children will continue to read them and just progress each year to slightly harder ones. Some are willing to accept the challenge of “chapter books”, which I will discuss next.

By **FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE** some of the children are ready to progress to fiction books such as the short stories of **Shlomo Abas** and **Moshe Yahalom**, who are both popular authors with my students. Many of their books are short story collections with humorous illustrations and larger print that make them reader friendly. I have most of their short story collections on my shelves. There are also several collections of Chelm stories which are very popular in our media center, including ones by Shlomo Abas and Nurit Yoval. "Chapter books" are mostly read by my students from **Grades 4 through 8**. Often the teachers will assign a book report to the children. In the fifth grade the children have done some very creative visual posters and presentations for their "book reports." Very rarely will one of my students read a long Hebrew book just for pleasure reading. (except for my Israeli students, of course!) In our middle school this year the most advanced class in Grade 7 is reading a "Gesher le-Noar" book about Sarah Aaronsohn, "Sarah Giburat Nili.", and in Grade 8 they are reading a book in the "Minheret Ha-Zman" series, a popular time travel series.

There are also the **Gesher** series books which you may be familiar with from your Hebrew school days. Gesher has updated some of the books in their series to make them more attractive and reader-friendly and I have listed some of those newer versions in my bibliography. Risa Krohn at the Israel Book Shop can also fill you in on which ones to buy. The two easier Gesher series are "**Gesher Kal**" and "**Gesher Liyladim**" both of which I use a lot for Grades 3 and up because they are on a fairly easy reading level. Be aware that many of them are skinny and small, and are easy to lose or misplace when they circulate. However, they are inexpensive and worth buying. The "**Gesher La-Noar**" series books are much more challenging, and they often are not illustrated. Many of my students find them too lengthy and will not pick them up.

There are also many Hebrew nonfiction books available and I have included some of my favorites in my bibliography. As I mentioned before, I often will just order one book in a series that I am not familiar with, either fiction or nonfiction, to check out the series before I order more titles. You may want to do the same with the books listed in my bibliography, especially if you have a limited budget.

There are more and more Hebrew picture books available on Israel and also books with Jewish holiday stories. Again, I have listed my favorites in the nonfiction section of my longer bibliography and also have some listed in my storytelling bibliography. One needs to pick and choose in order to find books that are not too difficult for your American students.

If you have any Israelis in your school that can handle harder books there are series such as "Minheret Ha-Zman" (time travel), "Kofiko" (about a monkey), "Koach Ha-Moach", and the Harry Potter books in Hebrew that they will enjoy reading.

Feel free to contact me if you have a limited budget and would like suggestions for a selection of books from my bibliography to start your Hebrew collection. If your teachers

have listening centers there are also books available for classroom use that come with cassettes or CD's.

### **HEBREW STORYTIME**

When I do Hebrew Storytime with my children in Grades 1-5 I often supplement the pictures in the book with additional pictures, stuffed animals, puppets, etc. which helps the children to better understand the story. Our session is all in Hebrew. Our school is bilingual, as I mentioned before. If they have comments or questions they must ask me in Hebrew (though I do make exceptions in the lower grades) We never translate the story into English as we go along.

Sometimes I change the words in the story as I read, to words that are easier to understand, or explain hard words with an explanation in Hebrew. (I often have my Israeli students be my helpers and they will explain in Hebrew to the class what the harder words mean) This is one way to involve the Israelis in your group and keep them interested. In our school I am amazed at the children's ability to understand my Hebrew stories! In Grade 4 I read stories to the children twice a month. In the spring the children work in small groups to write their own puppet shows. They then present the shows to their classmates in Grade 4 and again to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The resulting puppet shows are often very creative and it is a great way for the children to use their Hebrew skills and their imaginations!

### **HEBREW WEBSITES**

I was also asked to include Hebrew websites for children in my AJL session. Some of the Hebrew games websites are now sites that have a membership fee and many of those are geared to Israeli children and are quite hard, such as the "Galim" website. For a listing and description of a few children's Hebrew and English internet sites to learn Hebrew, or about Israel, or the Jewish holidays, you should consult my handout from the convention that also includes sources for purchasing materials, cataloging tips, and internet sites.

None of the websites I found were terrific. I would recommend that you purchase for your library, computer center or classrooms some computer software if you want your students to practice and reinforce their Hebrew. Two of our favorite Hebrew software programs are "DikDuk" from Davka and "Kids Speak Hebrew from TES (Torah Educational Software). Many other Hebrew CD's are available from Davka at [www.davka.com](http://www.davka.com) or from TES at [www.Jewishsoftware.com](http://www.Jewishsoftware.com) A discussion of the best Hebrew software available would be a topic for another whole session!

### **CATALOGING HEBREW BOOKS**

Once you have purchased your Hebrew books and videos, they will need to be cataloged. Our online catalog, and we have just switched to Follett Destiny, does not have the capacity to catalog in Hebrew. There is now an affordable product out from Mandarin called "Oasis" that does allow you to catalog directly in Hebrew. Those of you who have not yet purchased an online system should definitely look into Oasis if you have a substantial Hebrew collection. Surpass is also testing new software that will allow

Hebrew cataloging. Rubin Mass Ltd. Has also just informed me that they have developed a Windows software program, “My Bookshelf” (in Hebrew: “Madaf Ha-Sefarim Sheli”) for a very small library collection needing to catalog Hebrew and non-Hebrew titles. ([www.rubin-mass.com](http://www.rubin-mass.com) ) Be sure to check with current users of any program you are considering before purchasing the product to see if they are satisfied. “My Bookshelf” is a very reasonable price and might work for libraries with a very small budget.

We catalog our Hebrew books transliterated. There are advantages and disadvantages to cataloging Hebrew records in transliteration versus directly in Hebrew. Hopefully, eventually, all systems will have the capacity to catalog directly in Hebrew and other foreign languages.

An easy-to-use transliteration/Romanization chart for Hebrew is available online from Princeton University at <http://infoshare1.princeton.edu/katmandu/hebrew/trheb.html> . There is also one available from the Library of Congress at <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/roman.html> I find the Princeton one a little more user friendly. If you do not do a lot of Hebrew cataloging you will probably find that it is sufficient to just print out one of the transliteration tables mentioned above to help you catalog your Hebrew materials. The chart tells you what letter to use in English for each corresponding Hebrew letter and vowel.

If one does a lot of Hebrew cataloging I recommend purchasing the publication “Hebraica Cataloging” by Paul Maher, which is available from the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service for \$15 plus shipping. The book has a transliteration chart in the front and detailed information on how to apply the Romanization tables to catalog Hebrew materials.

(see <http://lcweb.loc.gov/cds/contact.html> for purchasing information or call them at 1-800-255-3666)

Hebrew books are harder to catalog not only because of the transliteration involved but also because many Hebrew books for children do not always include complete cataloging information such as the place of publication or even the copyright date! Many of the Hebrew books also have no ISBN number. You will have to do the best you can with what is available in the book. Sometimes the publishing information is found at the back of the book instead of on the back of the title page. When they do not have the ISBN I have started including the Dana-Code from those books, which seems to always be available on the backs of books from Israel.

There are a few fields that are used especially for the cataloging of Hebrew materials and those in other foreign languages as well. I will go through them below in my cataloging tips (also found on one of my session handouts for easy reference-thanks to Joan C. Biella, a Hebrew cataloger at the Library of Congress, for her advice on cataloging!) If you have further questions about Hebrew cataloging consult the AJL directory and contact one of the Hebrew catalogers at the Library of Congress who are very helpful!

To catalog Hebrew materials I have the following tips:

1. Use one of the transliteration/Romanization tables mentioned above to transliterate the book's title. If available, I use the publisher and author information often found in English on the back of the title page. If it is not listed in English use the transliteration table. The important thing is to **BE CONSISTENT!** Use the authority lists in your catalog, if you have them, so you always spell the author's name, the publisher and place the same way each time you catalog!
2. Even if a book is not a translation of a book from English I still include the English translation of the title since our patrons and staff find that information useful.
3. It is helpful to assign each book a reading level and include that information somewhere in your cataloging record. I do that in the "Notes" section of my record. Suggestion of possible levels: Beginning Readers, Easy, Beginning Intermediate, Intermediate, and Advanced (without vowels or very long books). We also color code the books with colored dots on the spine to indicate the reading level. This helps the students and teachers with book selection. The color coding is explained on a sign in the Hebrew books section of the Media Center.
4. According to the Library of Congress and the AACR2 rules, a variant title (e.g. English translation of a title) is not supplied unless it is found **on the back of the title page (on the t.p. verso)** of the book being cataloged.

**\*If the English title is found on the back of the title page** it is included in the cataloging record as follows:

**MARC FIELD** 246 1 i Title on t.p. verso (type this exact wording)  
 (variant title) a List the English title from the t.p.verso here

**\*If the Hebrew book is a translation of an already existing book from another language, such as English, the original title appears as follows:**

**MARC FIELD** 240 1 0 a List Original title here e.g. The cat in the hat  
 Then put: 1 Hebrew

\*You need a 246 Marc Field whenever the English title appears somewhere prominently in the book, either on the title page, the title page verso, the cover, or the spine. You need a 240 Marc Field when the Hebrew book is a translation of a Book originally published in another language.

The reason that the 246 field is needed, even if it is the same as the 240 field information, is complicated. Some automated systems do not index the 240 field and if you search that English title, you may not find a record in which that title only appears in the 240 field.

**If the English title is not found at all in the book and is not a translation but you still want to include it in your cataloging record place it in**

**MARC FIELD** 246 1 a List the English title here

5. If you share your records with other libraries and want to catalog exactly by AACR2 rules you also need to put in the following Marc information if a book is a translation from English:

**MARC FIELD** 041 1 a heb

h eng

I always assign subject headings to my Hebrew books to make them more accessible.

Processing tip: I find that Hebrew books from Israeli publishers are often not bound as well as books from U.S. publishers. Therefore, if there is no paper cover on the book, I usually reinforce the spine of each new book with clear book tape once I have put on the spine, bar code labels and colored dot for reading level.

Our library has its Hebrew books in a separate Hebrew section. If the book is fiction a sample call number is HE KOR (“HE” plus the first three letters of the author’s last name, plus a colored dot on the spine with the reading level) If the book is nonfiction is has the call number, “HE” plus the Dewey number or Weine number, plus the usual first three letters of the author’s last name. We also have a separate spot for Hebrew biographies where the call number is HE Biog XXX (like a traditional bibliography we include the first three letters of the person’s last name that the biography is about)

To conclude, the world of children’s Hebrew books, videos/DVDs and websites is vast! I hope that in this paper I have been able to address some of the concerns we all have as to what is out there, where to buy it, and how to catalog it! If you would like me to send you the three handouts from my session or have any other questions, feel free to contact me at the Epstein School during the school year, from mid-August through the end of May.

Janice Resnick Levine

Email: [jlevine@epsteinatlanta.org](mailto:jlevine@epsteinatlanta.org) phone: 404-250-5641 (Monday, Wed., or Thurs.)

**CHILDREN'S HEBREW BOOKS FOR HEBREW STORYTIME**  
**AJL CONVENTION OAKLAND, CA**  
**Tried and True Favorites from Janice R. Levine**  
**The Epstein School Solomon Schechter School of Atlanta**  
**JUNE 20, 2005**

\*Copyright dates listed when available.

These are the grades I tell the stories to- many can be used at a variety of grade levels.

**GRADE 1**

BISKVIT (Biscuit) by, Alyssa Capucilli. Am Oved Publishers, 1997.

(out of print) An easy story about a girl and her dog Biscuit.

EIFO PINUKI? (*Where's Spot?*) by, Eric Hill. Schocken Publishing House Ltd., 1997. A lift the flap book with easy vocabulary about the dog Spot.

GAM ANI by, Moshe Shapira. Sifriat Poalim Publishing House Ltd., 2001.  
Cute story about a baby duck and chick.

HA-ME-IL HA-MUFLA SHEL YOSEF (*Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*) by, Simms Taback. Kinneret Publishing House, Ltd., 2001. A very old Overcoat is recycled numerous times into a variety of garments.

KOVAIM LIMCHIRA (*Caps for Sale*) by, Esphyr Slobodkina. Am Oved, 1990. A cap merchant falls asleep under a tree with surprising results!

MIRYAM VE-HA-YAM by, Mirik Snir. Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1992  
Miriam is searching for the sea.

SHEL MI HA-BAYIT? by, David Bennett. Sifriat Ma'ariv Or, 1998.

Story that will help teach different animals' names.

ZERA SHEL TZNONIT by, Chana Horn. Yesod. (good for **Tu B'Shevat**)  
Story about planting a seed and watching it grow!

**GRADE 2**

EIFO HA-AFIKOMAN? by, Mira Owen. Part of an easy series of booklets in the *Nitzanim* series. Matach. (available from Israel Bookshop-this series is good for reading to children-too skinny and flimsy for library circulation-this series would work in a classroom library)

ELIEZER VE-HA-GEZER by, Levin Kipnis. Samuel Simson Ltd., 1989.  
(used at **Tu B'Shevat** time) Eliezer has trouble pulling a huge carrot from the ground and gets some help. A classic! (available on video)

LAYLA CHASHUCH ECHAD by, Ora Ayal. Sifriat Poalim Publishing, 1988. A child sees shadows in the dark and imagines surprising things.

MA ANI HACHI OHEV by, Shulamit Tzarfati. Korim. A child tells what he likes the most. Lends itself to child participation about what students like the best.

MITZ PETEL by, Chaya Shenhav. Am Oved Publishers Ltd., 1992. This is a classic in Israel about a mysterious rabbit, a lion, and a giraffe. (available on video)

RUCHI HAFUCHI (*Contrary Mary*) by, Anita Jeram. Sifriat Ma'ariv Publishing House, 1996.

TAHALUCHA SHEL YELADIM. By, Dalia Korach-Segev. Korim. (used during **Yom Ha'Atzmaut** time-can use a map of Israel as a prop)

### **GRADE 3**

BENTZI (*Elmer*) by, David McKee. Am Oved, 1995. Elmer the elephant, who is multicolored, wants to be gray like all the other elephants.

HA-ACHBAR VE-HA-TAPUACH by, Steven Butler. Shva Publishers, 1994. (used at **Tu B'Shevat** time) A mouse patiently waits for an apple to fall off a tree-the other animals that join him are not as patient!

HANUKKAH SHEL OR by, Yona Zilberman. Korim. This is a cute story about a visit by children to a Moadon for the elderly during **Hanukkah**.

HA-PIL SHE-RATZA LEHIYOT HACHI by, Paul Kor. Dvir Publishing House, 1993. An elephant wants to be more colorful than just gray and comes up with a possible solution.

KASPIYON, HA-DAG HA-KATAN by, Paul Kor. Dvir, 1990. Kaspiyon, a silver fish helps a lost baby whale find his parents.

SIPPURIM LE-YAMIM TOVIM-"Eich Mevakshim Selicha", pp.20-27.

by, Emuna Eilon. Dor. (**Yom Kippur** story) A boy has a hard time saying "sorry" to his brother.

### **GRADE 4**

HA-DAG SHE-LO RATZA LEHIYOT DAG by, Paul Kor. Keter. A fish is not happy being a fish and tries out being other animals with interesting results!

HA-ETZ HA-NADIV (*The Giving Tree*) by, Shel Silverstein. Modan, 1964. (great story for **Tu'B'Shevat**)

HA-HANUKKIYAH SHEL DINA by, Floreva Cohen. BJE NY, 1981.

Dina and her grandfather make her a Hanukkiyah out of a potato and surprise her parents. You can make your own potato Hanukkiyah with oil for the children that really works! (nice **Hanukkah** story)

HA-KIRKAS SHEL AHARON (*Harold and the Circus*) by, Crockett Johnson. Modan, 1994. A Harold and the purple crayon story.

HA-SHTIL SHEL MOR. by, Sara Zluf. Samuel Simson Ltd., 1997.  
Mor does a good job nurturing the plant she takes home from School. (used at **Tu B'Shevat** time)

HA-TARNEGOLET HA-KETANA VE-HE-CHARUTZA by, Shlomo Abas. Agur Publishing House, 1998. The famous story of the chicken who plants wheat and none of her friends want to help.

SECHACH LA-SUKKAH by, Levin Kipnis. Samuel Simson Ltd., 1989.  
A boy searching for Schach for the top of his Sukkah tries a lot of trees before he is successful. (a nice story for **Sukkot**)

### **GRADE 5**

HA-AGGADA AL HA-SIACH HA-KATAN. by, Osnat Yoshpe. Zmora-Bitan, 1997. A thorn bush is not happy and tries to be different before he learns to be happy just being himself. (a story for **Tu B'Shevat**)

HA-EGOZ SHEL ZAHAV. by, Levin Kipnis. Modan, 1990. Two poor children encounter Elijah who leads them to a house where they get new clothes for the holiday. (**Passover** story)

HA-KIVSA HA-CHACHAMA VE-HA-ZE-EV by, Shlomo Abas. Agur Publishing House, 1993. (several short animal stories)

LE-AN NE-ELAM HA-RAV? by, Michal Gur-Aryeh. 1987(Gesher Kal series) The classic story of the rabbi who disappears every year during Selichot services and his congregants think he is up in heaven praying for them. He is however, “even higher”, out doing a mitzvah instead.  
Available from the Israel Bookshop (A Rosh Hashanah story)

MASHEHU ACHER. by, Kathryn Cave. Shva, 1999.  
This is a cute book about how it is o.k. to be different.

## CHILDREN'S HEBREW BOOKS

ספרי ילדים בעברית

AJL SESSION OAKLAND, CA

JUNE 20, 2005

Presented by Janice R. Levine

The Epstein School Solomon Schechter School of Atlanta

### SELECTED SOURCES FOR BUYING HEBREW MATERIALS:

(Start with your local Jewish Bookstore and see what they can do for you!)

- 1. THE ISRAEL BOOK SHOP** Large selection of Hebrew and English educational materials including materials from Israel. They sell books, videos, music CD's, maps, games, etc.  
410 Harvard Street  
Brookline, MA 02446  
Phone: (800) 323-7723  
FAX: (617) 566-0006  
Website: [www.israelbookshop.com](http://www.israelbookshop.com) Library discount available.  
\*Print catalogs now available online [www.geocities.com/hakollamoreh](http://www.geocities.com/hakollamoreh)  
**Contact person:** Risa Krohn Email: [risa@israelbookshop.com](mailto:risa@israelbookshop.com)  
Her hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9-4 P.M. Wed. 12-6 P.M. Fri. 9-Noon
- 2. SIFRUTAKE** Wide selection of Israeli music, videos, DVD's and books for children and adults.  
486 Avenue P  
Brooklyn, NY 11223  
Phone: (718) 382-9128  
FAX: (718) 382-9134  
Outside N.Y.: (800) 737-8853  
Online catalog: <http://www.sifutake.com>  
**Contact person:** Rikky Toledo Library discount available.
- 3. ISRABOOK/GEFEN PUBLISHING HOUSE**  
**Affiliated with Gefen books in New York City.**  
Office in USA Sells Israeli books, both educational resources and Hebrew books for children and adults.  
Gefen Books  
600 Broadway Listings available monthly of Hebrew children's & adult bestsellers, and new title updates.  
Lynbrook, NY 11563  
Website: [www.israelbooks.com](http://www.israelbooks.com) Library discount available.  
\*\*Most Hebrew children's books are **shipped from Israel.**  
**Contact person:** Andy Kohlenberg [israbook@gefenpublishing.com](mailto:israbook@gefenpublishing.com)
- 4. ORLY'S BOOKSTORE**  
Online Hebrew bookstore based in Sunnyvale, CA. that sells Israeli books, videos, DVD's and CD's for children, youth, and adults.

Website: [www.orlybookstore.com](http://www.orlybookstore.com)

Phone: 408-481-9482

**Contact person:** Orly Krepner

## **SOURCES FOR INFORMATION ON CATALOGING HEBREW BOOKS:**

1. **Romanization Table for Hebrew and Yiddish:**  
<http://infoshare1.princeton.edu/katmandu/hebrew/trheb.html>
2. All of the ALA/LC Romanization tables can be seen at  
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/roman.html> . This website has a link to the Hebrew and Yiddish Romanization table from the Library of Congress publication, **ALA-LC ROMANIZATION TABLES: TRANSLITERATION SCHEMES FOR NON-ROMAN SCRIPTS.**
3. **HEBRAICA CATALOGING** by Paul Maher (1987) Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service. 72 p.  
ISBN 0-8444-0567-1     **PRICE: \$15**  
This publication has a romanization/transliteration chart as well as detailed information about various aspects of cataloging Hebrew materials and is worth purchasing if you do a lot of Hebrew cataloging.  
**To order from the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service:** Online: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/cds/contact.html>  
By mail: Library of Congress  
Cataloging Distribution Service  
Customer Services Section  
Washington, DC 20541-4912  
Internet email address: [cdsinfo@loc.gov](mailto:cdsinfo@loc.gov). Please include "Web" in your subject line.  
For fastest service call toll-free in the U.S.: 1-800-255-3666

## **TIPS ON CATALOGING HEBREW CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

1. Use one of the transliteration charts available at the above resources to transliterate Hebrew book titles. **BE CONSISTENT!**
2. It is helpful to assign each book a reading level and include that information in the cataloging record. I include the level in the Notes section. Suggestion of possible levels: Beginning Readers, Easy, Beginner Intermediate, Intermediate and Advanced (without vowels and/or very long books). Books can be color coded with levels (we use colored dot stickers) to help students and teachers with book selection.

3. According to the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR2) and the Library of Congress a variant title (e.g. English translation of a title) is not supplied unless it is found on the back of the title page (on the t.p. verso)

**\*If the English title is found on the back of the title page it is included as follows: in MARC FIELD 246 1 i Title on t.p. verso**

**a Actual English title**

**\*If the Hebrew book is a translation of an already existing book from another language, such as English, the original title appears in**

**MARC FIELD 240 1 0 a Original title of the book**

**1 Hebrew**

If the English title is not found at all in the book and you still want to include it place it in the MARC FIELD 246 1 a Actual English title

4. If you share your records with other libraries and want to catalog by the AACR2 rules, **if a book is a translation from English** you also need include the following: **in MARC FIELD 041 1 a heb**

**h eng**

## **A SAMPLING OF HEBREW AND ENGLISH INTERNET SITES FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN HEBREW, ABOUT ISRAEL, AND ABOUT THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS**

### **Akhlah: The Jewish Children's Learning Network**

<http://www.akhlah.com>

There is a lot of interesting Jewish information for children at the Akhlah website. The Hebrew is very basic. You can learn about the Hebrew alphabet and learn basic Hebrew words. It is not the place to go for interactive games. You can also learn about the Jewish holidays, the Torah portion of the week, Israel, Jewish heroes, and Jewish traditions. It is a very good resource for teachers as well.

### **Babaganewz: A Great Space for Jewish Kids on the Web**

<http://www.babaganewz.com/>

Could not leave this one out! This is the wonderful website that goes along with the Jewish magazine for children, BABAGANEWZ. There are games, news items, an incredible virtual tour of Israel, a teacher's section, etc. If you are not familiar with this one, be sure to check it out and let your teachers know about it!

### **The J Site** <http://www.j.co.il>

The J site is also a great site to know about. It is a Jewish site created by Jacob Richman that is "educational, fun, simple to use and friendly." It is updated every month. Several Hebrew features are included such as: Hebrew Sign Maker, My Hebrew Songbook (to print out the lyrics to Hebrew songs), Language Match Games, and a Multilingual Hangman Game (Hebrew Hangman is without vowels).

**Jewish Hot Sites** <http://www.jr.co.il/hotsites/jewish.htm>

This is a great list of links to Jewish websites. Thank you, Jacob Richman! This website will get you to a listing of links to additional websites for learning Hebrew. If you click on the "Holidays" link there is an amazing list of websites/links for each of the Jewish holidays.

**Jewish Virtual Library** <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/>

This is a good resource for Grades 5 and up. It is neither a Hebrew website nor a games website but is constantly used by my Middle School Students for research on virtually every Jewish topic-Israel, Jewish biographies, the Holocaust, Jewish statistics, etc.

**JNF of Canada** <http://www.jnf-canada.org/jnf/gameroom/firework.html>

A website with various activities related to Israel, nature and Tu B'Shevat. Though none of it is in Hebrew it is worth knowing about!

**Starting with Aleph** <http://www.ejemm.com/aleph/enter1.html>

This is a website for learning the Hebrew letters and vowels. There is audio as well as visual. The narration is in English with Hebrew pronunciation of words, letters and vowels. There is also a nice Midrash about the Aleph Bet. Lesson 1 is free. Then you must pay to download the rest for \$9.95, or purchase a CD-ROM for \$17.95.

**Ulpan Aleph from Behrman House** <http://www.behrmanhouse.com/ua/>

This is the Behrman House Publishing website. On the site it has a sample of the activities found on the Ulpan Alef Interactive CD-ROM which is part of their Ulpan Alef learning materials. The CD is available for sale for \$10 plus shipping. The sample they give you online is the unit on food. It is a very cute way to learn the Hebrew food vocabulary that includes both sound and animation. You can try out the activities online and order the CD and/or other written materials if you like what you see!

**University of Alberta, Canada**

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~yreshef/nurit.htm>

A website where children can begin to learn Hebrew, as well as learn about Israel and the Jewish holidays, through various fun activities developed by Dr. Nurit Reshef.

**ZigZag World** <http://www.zigzagworld.com>

Hebrew for Me <http://www.zigzagworld.com/hebrewforme/>

This Zig Zag World website has several interesting features. There is unfortunately no sound feature. You can click on an activity and a picture will appear with Hebrew words on the right. When you drag the Hebrew word over to the picture, a picture of that word appears and you place it in the picture where you want it. Some of the Hebrew activities relate to the Jewish holidays. There is also a Hebrew Keyboard Tutor at this sight and some games as well.

Games <http://www.zigzagworld.com/games/> This Zig Zag World website has several games, most of which involve the use of Hebrew words.

**Any more questions about anything on this handout? Feel free to contact me during the school year! (mid-August-the end of May)**

**Janice R. Levine** jlevine@epsteinalanta.org

Work phone: 404-250-5641

**CHILDREN'S HEBREW BOOKS and VIDEOS**

ספרי ילדים בעברית

**AJL SESSION OAKLAND, CA**

Presented by Janice R. Levine,

The Epstein School Solomon Schechter School of Atlanta

**JUNE 20, 2005 (Update from 6/01)**

Copyright dates included when available.

\*\*Indicates titles new to the list

### BOOKS FOR BEGINNING HEBREW READERS

(I use these for Grades 1 and 2 in the day school)

#### **“SHEL MI” Series from David Bennett**

SHEL MI HA-OCHEL?, SHEL MI HA-OZNAIM?, SHEL MI HA-BAYIT?, and SHEL MI HA-RAGLAYIM? Hod Artzi, 1999.

#### **BIG BOOK IN HEBREW**

OTTO HA-DUBON (Otto the Bear) Anbel, 1991.

Kor, Paul. LIFAMIM. (*Sometimes*) Dvir, 1997. A nice book that teaches words for feelings.

Maes, Dominique. LU HAYA ZEH HA-KOVA SHELI (*If This Were My Hat*) Yavneh Books, 2000.

\*\*Tzarfati, Shulamit. HAMISHPACHA SHEL RUBI. (*Rubi's Family*)

Korim. Great easy book for learning family words in Hebrew.

There are other Rubi books as well.

#### **Books by Shulamit Tzarfati**

BOKER TOV! , LAYLA TOV!, \*\*MA ANI HACHI OHEV,  
HAYOM YESH LI YOMULEDET. All from Korim.

#### **“KORIM KEMO GEDOLIM” Series** Korim.

First six in series: (many more now available-later ones have laminated pages)

1. PARAT MOSHE KETANAH
2. HA-ZVUV HE-ATZUV
3. TAHALUCHA SHEL YELADIM
4. MA MATZA HA-TARNEGOLET
5. MATANA KETANA
6. GESHEM YORED

**\*\*“PILONI LOMED” Series.** Korim. e.g. MA KATAN-MA GADOL.

**\*\*“SIDRAT LE-LIMUD TZVAIM” Color series**

Book for each color e.g. HA-YOM HAKACHOL by, Shulamit Tzarfati.  
Korim. All the pages are laminated.

**“SIFRIYAH KETANA SHELI” Series by Mirik Snir**

**12 in the series (3 included)** Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 1996

#1 ANI TZOVA-AT ANAN #3 LO ROTZA #5 HAR GLIDA

Some of the others not listed have harder vocabulary-may want to pick and choose.

**“TEMUNOT LE-PA’OTOT” Series** Korim, 1999

(Series of books with related pictures and the corresponding Hebrew word)

BA-BAYIT, TZA-ATZUIM, BAALEI CHAYIM, PEROT VIYRAKOT, KLEI  
RECHEV, BEGADIM, etc. (pages are laminated)

**\*\*“TEMUNOT MIN HA-TEVA” Series.** Korim, 2000.

My children’s favorites: CHAYOT HA-BAR (wild animal pictures and  
words) CHAYOT HA-BAYIT (domestic animal pictures and words)

## PICTURE BOOKS IN HEBREW

### ISRAELI AUTHORS

More are listed in the Israel Book Shop, Orly’s Bookstore, and Sifrutake Catalogs-these  
are my favorites!

#### **For Grades 2-5 (most are for Grades 3-5)**

**\*\*Abas, Shlomo.** CHATUL LAVAN CHATUL SHACHOR. (*Black Cat  
White Cat*) Agur Publishing, 2002.

Aharonof, Chagit. MA ZEH YACHOL LIHIYOT? (*What can it Be?*)  
Sifriyat Bet-El, 1997.

**\*\*Attar, Tirza.** HA-ARYEH SHE-AHAV TUT. (*The Lion that liked  
Strawberries.*)Ha-Kibbutz Ha-Meuchad. Cute new story.

**\*\*Avnon, Yitzchak.** HA-DUBON LO LO. (*The “No” Bear*) Modan, 1997.  
A popular story among Israeli children about a bear who likes to  
say “no”.

**\*\*Ben-Gur, Naomi.** APTZIKONET. (*Sneezy*) Ha’Kibbutz Hameuchad,  
2001. A cute story about a mouse that sneezes all the time.

**\*\*Borenstein, Lazar.** KOFIKO VE-HA-KELEV HA-CHOLEH. (*Kofiko and  
the Sick Dog*) Dani Sefarim, 1999.

Ever-Ha-Dani, Yoram. HA-ISH VE-HA-KAV (*The Man and the Line*)  
Modan, 1990.

**\*\*Grossman, David.** ITAMAR POGESH ARNAV. (*Itamar Meets a  
Rabbit*) Am Oved Publishers, 1988. One of several Itamar stories.

Kass, Pnina. BERALE, BERALE TZE HA-CHUTZA (*Berale, Go Outside*)  
Keter. Part of a cute series about a snail.

- Kipnis, Levin. ELIEZER VE-HA-GEZER (Eliezer and the Carrot) Samuel Simson Ltd, 1989, 2000. Classic about a huge carrot that does not want to come out of the ground.
- Kor, Paul. \*\*HA-SULTAN SHE-RATZA LA-UF. (The Sultan Who Wanted to Fly) Dvir, 1996.  
HA-YELED SHE-AHAV ET HA-YAREACH (The Child Who Loved the Moon) Dvir, 1995.  
Nice set of 3 books about a little silver fish:  
KASPIYON, HA-DAG HA-KATAN (Kaspiyon, the Little Fish) Dvir, 1990.  
KASPIYON BE-SAKANA (Beware, Kaspiyon!) Dvir, 1997.  
HA-MASA HA-GADOL SHEL KASPIYON (Kaspiyon's Great Journey) Dvir, 1999.
- Modan, Shula. CHAGIGA SHEL TZVAIM (The Colors' Celebration) MISIBA SHEL CHAYOT (The Animals' Party) Modan.  
\*\*Series about Lior (for Grades 4 and 5) from Modan  
e.g. HA- PACHAD LIOR VE-HA-CHOR,  
HA-BROGEZ SHEL LIOR  
"ANI MESAPER LI SIPPUR" Series (Fairy Tale Series-8 books)  
e.g. HE-CHATUL BE-MAGAFAYIM (Puss in Boots)  
ZEHAVA U-SHLOSHET HA-DUBIM (Goldilocks and the 3 Bears)
- Rut, Miriam. HABAYIT SHEL YAEL (Yael's House) Sifriyat Poalim, 1977; 1999 (available on video too)
- Shalev, Meir. ABA OSEH BUSHOT (My Father Embarrasses Me) Keter Publishing House. (available on video too)  
GUMOT HA-CHEN SHEL ZOHAR (Zohar's Dimples) Keter Publishing House, 1990.  
\*\*HA-DODA MICHAL (My Aunt Michal) Am Oved, 2002.  
\*\*RONI, VE-NOMI VE-HA-DOV YAAKOV. (Roni, and Nomi, and Jacob the Bear) Am Oved, 2003.
- \*\*Shenhav, Chaya. CHATUL YAROK. (The Green Cat) Am Oved, 2000.
- \*\*Yehoshua, A.B. HA-ACHBAR SHEL TAMAR VE-GAYA. Ha'Kibbutz Hameuchad, 2005.
- \*\*Yosef, Liat. ANI ROTZA PIL. (I Want an Elephant) by, Liat Yosef. Korim, 2001.
- Zluf, Sarah. HA-CHALOM HA-TZVAIM (The Colors' Dream) Samuel Simson Ltd, 1991

**HEBREW TRANSLATIONS OF ENGLISH PICTURE BOOKS for GRADES 2-5  
Many can be used for Middle School too.**

More are listed in the Israel Book Shop, Orly's Bookshop and Sifrutake Websites or Catalogs-These are my favorites!

Anholt, Catherine and Laurence. MATAI ANI SAMEACH? (*What makes me Happy?*) Sifriat Ma'ariv, 1996. A good book about emotions.

\*\*Beck, Andrea. ELLIOT POCHED BA-LAYLA. One of a series of cute books about a moose. Korim, 2003.

- \*\*Bennett, David. GADOL VE-KATAN. (*Big and Small*). Sifriat Ma'Ariv, 1998. For Grades 2 or 3.
- \*\*Bridwell, Norman. CLIFFORD HA-KELEV HA-ADOM HA-GADOL. (*Clifford the BigRed Dog*) Sifriat Poalim, 2004.
- \*\*Brown, Marc. ARTUR VE-HA-SHEN HA-MITNADNEDET. (*Arthur and the Loose Tooth*) Nemachim Publishing, 2003.
- Butler, Steven. GEVERET DOGERET. (Henny Penny) Saba, 1996.
- Carle, Eric. \*\*HA-AKAVISH HE-ASUK (The Very Busy Spider) Sifriat Poalim, 2003.  
HA-ZACHAL HA-RAEV. (*The Hungry Caterpillar*) Sifriat Poalim, 1994.
- \*\*Falconer, Ian. OLIVIA and OLIVIA MATZILA ET HA-KIRKAS. (*Olivia and Olivia Saves the Circus*) Machbara Lesifrut, Zmora Ltd., 2001.
- \*\*Hill, Eric. 20 titles available in this series e.g. PINUKI MEVAKER ETZEL SABA VE-SAVTA (*SPOT SLEEPS AT GRANDMA AND GRANDPA'S*) Schocken Publishing House, 1997.
- \*\*Jeram, Anita. NIRI NIRE OTACH. (*Daisy Dare*) Sifriat Ma-ariv, 1999.
- \*\*Johnson, Crockett. AHARON VE-HA-IPARON HA-SAGOL. (*Harold's Purple Crayon*) Modan, 1998. (2 others available in Hebrew)
- Lionni, Leo. KATKACHOL VE-KAT'TZAHOV. (*Little Blue and Little Yellow*) Ha-Kibbutz Hameuchad.
- \*\*Madonna. HA'TAPUCHIM SHEL MAR PEABODY. (*Mr. Peabody's Apples*) Kinneret, 2003. (for Grade 4 or 5, lots of words on a page)
- \*\*Riddell, Chris. HA-TZARA IM PILIM (*The Trouble with Elephants*) Sifriyat Ma'ariv, 1997.
- Seuss, Dr. Lots of his books are available in Hebrew-listed below are the easiest to read  
BENI BEN BUNI MATAI KVAR TELECH? (*Marvin K. Mooney, Will You Please go Now?*)  
LIKRO BE-AYNAYIM ATZUMUT. (*I Can Read with my Eyes Shut!*)  
LO RAEV VE-LO OHEV (*Green Eggs and Ham*)  
SEFEREGEL. (*The Foot Book*)  
\*\*SEFER HA-AYIN (*The Eye Book*) Modan, 2002.  
\*\* SEFER HA-SHEN (*The Tooth Book*) Modan, 2002.
- Wells, Rosemary. HAFTA-AH LE-YOM HULEDET. (*BirthDay Surprise-a cute Max the rabbit book*) Am Oved, 1999.

#### FICTION BOOKS FOR GRADES 4 AND UP

**Abas, Shlomo. HA-MESHALIM HA-AHUVIM BE-YOTER. 76 p.**  
**(The**  
**Most Beloved Fables) Agur Publishing House, 1993.**

Ofek, Atara. HERSHELEH: KOL SIPUREI HERSHELE. 96 p. Alumot, 1991.

Yoval, Nurit. CHELEM: KOL SIPUREI CHELEM. 96 p. Alumot.

“GESHER KAL” Series (from the WZO Dept. of Education, Israel)

A nice series of short, illustrated booklets for Grades 3-5-the ones that have been redone are relatively reader-friendly.

- e.g. AGADAT CHONI HA-M’AGEL 16 p. (a version of Honi and the Carob Tree)  
AGGADOT RABBI YEHUDA HA-NASI 36 p. (1996) (longer one)  
HA-MELECH VE-NAALEI ZAHAV 14 p. (*The King and the Gold Shoes*)  
HOCHMA VE-YOFI: AGGADOT RABBI YEHOSHUA BEN CHANANYA 64 p. (for more motivated readers)  
OREACH BI-YERUSHALAYIM 20 p. (*A Guest in Jerusalem*)  
SHNEI ACHIM 21 p. (the ancient legend of two brothers in Jerusalem)

“GESHER LA-NOAR” Series (From the WZO)

A series for higher-level readers-books are longer, with less pictures. (60-70 p.) e.g. HA-YELADIM ME-RECHOV MAPU 73 p. (A Holocaust story) by, Sara Neshamit

SHELOSHA SIPPURIM 70 p. by, Sholom Aleichem

“GESHER LILADIM” Series (From the WZO)

A mostly dated series of easier readers. A few are somewhat attractive, but the booklets are small and skinny and easy to misplace-probably better for classroom use rather than as circulating library books. A few that are interesting: e.g. KE-SHE-HA-DOD SIMCHA SHAR 18 p.

RABBI AKIVA MELAMED TORAH

“GINGI” Series by Galila Ron-Feder. Adam, Motzi-im Lior

A series for very advanced readers about the adventures of a redheaded boy.

e.g. #11 GINGI O HA-MASA EL HE-AVAR 78 p.

\*\*“HAVURAT KOACH-HA-MOACH” by Zohar Aviv. Modan

A series for Israeli advanced readers who can read without vowels- adventure stories about the “Brian Force Gang.” (over 100 pages each)

“HASIFRIYA HA-RISHONA SHELI” by Shlomo Abas. Agur

**Publishing House. A few titles from the series: (40-70 p. long)**

SIPPURIM HEM HA-CHAVERIM SHELI (*Stories are My Friends*) (1996) SIPPURIM

SHE-ANI OHEV LIKRO (*Stories I Love to Read*) (1991)

SIPPURIM SHE-MATZCHIKIM OTI (*Stories that Make me Laugh*) (1992)

\*\*SIPPURIM SHE-MESAPRIM LI LAMA (*Stories that tell me Why*) (2004)

“KOFIKO” by Tamar Borenstein-Lazar. Dani Publishers.

This series of Kofiko chapter books about a monkey are for very advanced readers.

Books have at least 60 pages in small print.

e.g. KOFIKO BE-KADORSAL

**\*\*“MINHERET HA-ZMAN”** by, Galila Ron-Feder-Amit. A fun series about kids that travel in time for very advanced readers or the Israelis in your school. Modan. BOOK #1-YERUSHALAYIM BE-MATZOR. 1997.  
(over 20 books in the series)

**\*\*PITGAMIM MESAPRIM”** Tales with a lesson to teach. Advanced Hebrew for Grade 5 and up. Korim. e.g. LA-SHEKER EIN RAGLAIM  
IM EIN ANI LI MI LI

**“SIDRAT LETZIM GEDOLIM BE-SIFRUT HA-YELADIM”**  
Series of books with funny short stories for higher-level readers. Retold by Shlomo Abas. Agur Publishing House (60-80 pages long)  
HA-SIPPURIM HA-BILTI NISHKACHIM SHEL CHACHMEI CHELM  
(Chelm Stories) (1992)  
HA-SIPPURIM HA-MATZHIKIM BE-YOTER SHEL SHLUMIEL (1995)  
SIPPURAV HA-MEVADCHIM SHEL TIL EULENSPIEGEL (1992)  
SIPPUREI HA-TIPSHIM HA-MATZCHIKIM BE-YOTER (1992)

**\*\*“SIFRIYAT MOFET”** One book in the series: AGGADOT SHLOMO  
HA-MELECH LEYLADIM. (Legends of King Solomon) Retold by  
Shlomo Abas. Agur Publishing House, 1998.

**“SIPPURIM SHE-MESAPRIM LI”** Series **Short stories, colorfully  
illustrated Book #2 HA-KIVSA HA-CHACHAMA VE-HA-  
Z’EV**  
**31 p. by, Shlomo Abas.**

**“SIPPURIM YAFIM SHE-HACHI KEF LIKRO”** Series  
Books written by Moshe Yahalom with large print and funny illustrations  
Korim. BIKKUR BE-ERETZ HA-LAMA 31 p.  
TIZMORET HA-CHAYOT HA-CHAVIVOT 31 p.

**“TULI TA’ALULI”** Series **A mystery series for very advanced  
readers. (about 70 p. long per book) e.g. #6 OTZAR SHODEDEI  
HA-YAM**

## NONFICTION BOOKS

### ANIMALS

**“ECH HEM GEDELIM”**Series (4 in series)  
BARVAZON (*DUCKS*), CHATATUL (*CATS*), KELAVLAV (*DOGS*), TZFARDEAH  
(*FROGS*)

## **ART BOOKS**

“Getting to Know the World’s Greatest Artists” Series Translated into Hebrew e.g. VAN GOCH (Van Gogh) Zmora-Bitan Publishers, 1996.

## **BIBLE STORIES**

### **FROM THE “GESHER LIYLADIM” SERIES (Easy Hebrew)**

NOACH VE-HA-MABUL (Noah)

DAVID VE-GALYAT (David and Goliath)

SIPPUR YONAH (Jonah)

\*\*“TANACH HOLECH LA-GAN” Series-Easy Hebrew for Gr.3-5.

DAVID VE-GALYAT, MOSHE BA-TEVA, and YOSEF VE-

ECHAV. Retold by Esther Shakin. Machbarot Lesifrut, Zmora Ltd.,2000.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

DEVORA OMER MESAPERET AL BEN-GURION.

DEVORA OMER MESAPERET AL HERZL.

DEVORA OMER MESAPERET AL BEGIN.

Zmora-Bitan, 1998.

HANNAH SENESH. (GESHER KAL SERIES)

HASHOMER: SIPPURO SHEL ALEXANDER ZAID. (GESHER KAL)

## **FLAGS**

Padan, Yehiam. SEFER HA-DEGALIM HASHLEM. (*The Book of Flags*)

Mapa, 1998.

## **\*\*HOLOCAUST**

EIN PARPARIM PO. 52 p. GESHER Series

A collection in simplified Hebrew of some of the poems found in the English book, I NEVER SAW ANOTHER BUTTERFLY: CHILDREN’S DRAWINGS AND POEMS FROM TEREZIN CONCENTRATION CAMP, 1942-1944.

## **ISRAEL**

\*\*Dagon, Tzila. YOM HULEDET LACH, MOLEDET. Samuel Samson Ltd., 1998.

Korach-Segev, Dalia and Yona Silberman.

\*\*YESH LI MUSAG- MIVCHAR MUSAGIM: AM YISRAEL-

MEDINAT YISRAEL. Korim 2002. Good for upper level students

who want to do basic Hebrew research on Israel or the Jewish holidays.

YOM HULEDET LA-MEDINA SHELI. (*Happy Birthday to my Country*) Korim. Stories and poetry.

\*\*Ofir, Uri. HA-DEGEL. Sefer Lakol Ltd., 2001. (nice picture book about the origins of the Israeli flag) For Grade 3 and up.

HA-SEMEL. Sefer Lakol Ltd., 2002. (a book on the emblem of Israel)

\*\*Orbach, Zviya. LA-MEDINA YES CHAGIGA! MA NITEN LA MATANA? 1998.

### **FROM THE GESHER KAL SERIES (Easy Hebrew)**

AGADOT YERUSHALAYIM (*Legends of Jerusalem*)

YOM YERUSHALAYIM SIPPURIM (Jerusalem Day Stories)  
FROM THE GESHER LIYLADIM SERIES (Easy Hebrew)  
DEGEL YISRAEL (The Flag of Israel)  
SIPPUR MENORAT HA-ZAHAV (*The story of the Golden Menorah*)

### ***JEWISH HOLIDAYS***

Alon, Emuna. SIPPURIM LE-YAMIM TOVIM. (Holiday Stories)  
Dor. (Very short, easy stories for Shabbat and most of the holidays)

Manor, Moshe. FROM THE GESHER KAL SERIES

SIPPURIM LACHAGIM: CHAGEI TISHREI (1989)

SIPPURIM LACHAGIM: TU B'SHEVAT, PURIM (1990)

SIPPURIM LACHAGIM: PESACH (1989)

### **JEWISH HOLIDAY PICTURE STORYBOOKS:**

\*\*Bar, Chana. HA-SUKKAH SHEL DANI. (*Danny's Sukkah*) Dani, 1998.

\*\*Kipnis, Levin. KOSO SHEL ELIYAHU. (*Elijah's Cup*) Samuel Simson Ltd. (*Passover*)

\*\*Korach-Segev, Dalya. HAFTA-AH SHEL PESACH. (*A Passover Surprise*) Korim, 1999.

NITZANIM has lots of holiday stories included in the series. Set of booklets, 3 levels available. Good for storytelling- not for circulation.

e.g. MISHLOACH MANOT and EIFO HA-AFIKOMAN?

(for Grades 1 or 2)

\*\*Ofir, Uri. ARBA-AT HA-MINIM (*Sukkot*). Sefer Lakol Ltd., 1993.

\*\*Schlein, Rina. CHAGEI TISHREI. Samuel Simson Ltd., 1997.

Several stories for the high holidays.

\*\*Zluf, Sara. SEVIVON HA-KESEM. (*The Magic Dreidel*) Samuel Simson, 1996. (*Hanukkah*)

SALSELAT HA-BIKKURIM. Samuel Simson, 1997. (*Shavuot*)

### **RIDDLES**

Calo, Masha. HA-CHIDOT HA-RISHONIT SHELI. (*My first Riddles*) Modan.

Meir, Mira. MI ZE HAYA? MA ZE YIHIYEH? (Who was That-What Will it Be?) Keter.

### **SCIENCE BOOKS**

“HA-TAGLIYOT HA-RISHONOT SHELI” SERIES

(First Discovery Books) Many available in Hebrew. e.g. HA-BETZA, HE-CHATUL, ONOT HA-SHANA, PARAT MOSHE RABENU, ETZIM

### ***SHABBAT***

Dimiel, Yitzhak. SIMLAT HA-SHABBAT SHEL CHANALEH HA-KETANA VE-OD SIPPURIM (*Hannah's Shabbat Dress and other Stories*) Kinneret, 1990.

Manor, Moshe. SIPPURIM LE-SHABBAT. (From KESHER KAL SERIES)

## HEBREW VIDEOS (many also available in DVD format)

Make sure you buy them in NTSC (U.S. format)

ABBA OSEH BUSHOT (*My Father Always Embarrasses Me*) Klasi Kaletet. Based on the book by Meir Shalev.

A cute story about a boy whose father always does things that embarrass him.

EFO PINUKI? (*Where is Spot*) Klasikaletet.

Six Eric Hill "Spot" stories in Hebrew. Books also available in Hebrew.

ELIEZER VE-HA-GEZER Klasi Kaletet.

An animated video of the stories and poems of Levin Kipnis.

\*\*HA-ZACHAL HA-RA-EV VE-SIPPURIM NOSAFIM. (*The Very Hungry Caterpillar and other Stories*) A video with 5 of Eric Carle's stories.

\*\*KASPIYON. Klasikaletet. Contains the 3 stories from the Kaspion picture books about the adventures of a little silver fish.

\*\*KOFIKO. Klasikaletet.

A series of videos which have stories about Kofiko, a monkey that lives with a family in Israel. The Hebrew is very fast and a bit hard to follow but the action is slapstick and the children enjoy the one we have!

\*\*MAASEH BA-CHAMISHA BALONIM. Three stories based on the title already listed about 5 balloons, as well as "Ha-Bayit Shel Yael" (*Yael's House*) and "Tiras Cham," (*Hot Corn*) all written by Miriam Rut.

MITZ PETEL, DIRA LE-HASKIR, AND HA-KINA NECHAMA Klasi Kaletet. An animated retelling of 3 classic Hebrew stories.

SIPPUREI HA-TANACH LILADIM (Bible Stories for Children) Klasi Kaletet.

Animated video available in Hebrew or English that includes the Creation, The Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, and the Tower of Babel.

### **JEWISH HOLIDAYS**

KESHET VE-ANAN (Rainbow and Cloud) Sisu Home Entertainment. A series of videos that present stories, songs and games about Jewish holidays. Few of tapes include: Chagei Tishrei (High holidays and Sukkot), Hanukkah, Galgal Ha-Zman (Time Wheel-Calendar), and Shabbat. Gr.3-5

PARPAR NECHMAD (Lovely Butterfly) Sisu Home Entertainment. Israeli-made holiday series in Hebrew that uses puppets, games, and songs in a Sesame Street format.

For Day School students Grades 1-2. Includes Tishrei Month Holidays, Hanukkah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Passover, and Yom Ha-Atzma'ut.

**\*\*RECHOV SUMSUM-CHAG HA-SUKKOT and HANUKKAH**

A video of two of the RECHOV SUMSUM shows which are an Israeli version of Sesame Street. The Hebrew is hard, but the visuals are wonderful. The Sukkot show shows you etrogs being picked off the trees, and sold in the street markets, as well as children building a sukkah, etc. The Hanukkah show retells the Hanukkah story. (Janice R. Levine June 2005)