

Building the Credible World:
The Importance of History in Jewish Children's Books
Barbara Krasner

Description: Historical fiction and history nonfiction for young readers bear the obligation to make history come alive. They also bear the obligation to create a credible world. Many do so through a mixture of seven components: painstaking research, contextual setting, tone, focused storytelling, engaging characters, vetting by subject matter experts, and compelling back matter. Yet, others suffer from the lack of these things. This presentation celebrates the books that do it well (promoters) and shows why others do a disservice to young readers (detractors).

Barbara Krasner is an award-winning writer and a member of the Sydney Taylor Book Award committee. She has an MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and publishes the popular blog, *The Whole Megillah | The Writer's Resource to Jewish Children's Books*. She is the former contributing editor to *History Magazine* and *Family Chronicle* and the former contributing editor on Jewish genealogy to *Heritage Quest Magazine*. Among her books are *Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors* (Heritage Quest, 2001) and the forthcoming *Goldie Takes a Stand: Golda Meir's First Crusade* (Kar-Ben, Fall 2014). Her history articles for young readers have appeared in *Babaganewz*, *Calliope*, *Cobblestone*, *Footsteps*, and *Highlights for Children*. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Douglass College, she majored in German (and spent junior year abroad at the University of Konstanz in southern Germany) and minored in Russian and history. Barbara is a candidate for the MA Applied Historical Studies at William Paterson University, where she teaches creative writing in the English department.