ENDURING QUESTIONS:
USING JEWISH CHILDREN’S LITERATURE IN CLASSROOMS

David Bloome, Evelyn Freeman and Laurie Katz

Description: In an interview format, the authors of the recently published book, *Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in Classrooms*, will discuss their motivation for writing the book and their commitment that Jewish children’s book should be shared with all children as part of diverse, multicultural literature. Inspired by Isaac Bashevis Singer’s belief that children “are deeply concerned with … eternal questions”, the authors will talk about how enduring questions form a framework for the book. They will describe how they engaged teachers across the country in a variety of settings to use a Jewish children’s book in their classroom and write a vignette for the book. Time will be provided for questions from conference attendees.

David Bloome is Professor Emeritus from Ohio State University. He has conducted research on reading and literacy education, classroom interaction and argumentative writing. Before becoming a researcher, he was a classroom language arts and reading teacher. The author of 21 books and over a hundred articles, he is a former president of the National Council of Teachers of English and the National Conference on Research in Language and Literacy. He is a student of Yiddish language, culture and literature. His most recent book, co-authored with Evelyn B. Freeman, Rosemary Horowitz, and Laurie Katz is titled *Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in the Classroom*.

Evelyn B. Freeman, professor emerita at The Ohio State University, taught courses in children’s literature and language arts, prepared elementary teachers, and was an affiliated faculty member with OSU’s Melton Center for Jewish studies. She has served as co-editor of *The Journal of Children’s Literature* and *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children’s Literature*. Evelyn has co-authored six books on topics related to children’s literature, numerous book chapters and journal articles. A former president of the Children’s Literature Assembly of the National Council Teachers of English and the United States Board on Books for Young People, she co-authored *Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in Classrooms*.

Laurie Katz is Professor in the Department of Teaching & Learning at The Ohio State University. Her areas of strength include teacher education of young children and their families from birth - 5th grade, inclusive classroom practices, narrative structures of young children, and relationships between families, schools/childcare centers and communities. Her most recent book is co-authored with Evelyn B. Freeman, Rosemary Horowitz and David Bloom and is titled *Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in the Classroom*. 