New books for 2023 & 2024!

GREEN BEAN BOOKS

www.greenbeanbooks.com
Green Bean Books has a clear mission: publishing beautiful children’s stories with Jewish content. As well as reviving classic works by authors including I. L. Peretz and Isaac Bashevis Singer, we try to bring you original works by award-winning writers and ground-breaking illustrators.

We are particularly proud to have established an annual European book award for authors and illustrators – check our website for details – and happy to have pushed the boundaries in terms of what can be done. *This Is My Shabbat* is the first Jewish children’s book ever published with Braille throughout, and *Harry Walks the High-Wire* is a concertina book that folds out to four metres wide. A couple of cookbooks have stormed onto the list too, because we can’t resist great Jewish food.

You can email our publisher Michael Leventhal at michael@greenhillbooks.com

With gorgeous illustrations and text by award-winning authors, our picture books for ages 3-8 are perfect for reading aloud and reading together.

**Sheep Says Shalom**
Written and illustrated by Ann D Koffsky
May 2023
10 pages
150 x 150 mm
£10.99 | $12.99
Hardback
9781784389079

A charming story for young readers, introducing them to Jewish faith and culture, and teaching them about the joy of learning a language.

The word ‘shalom’ means three different things: ‘hello’, ‘goodbye’ and ‘peace’. In this sweet, simple tale, Sheep experiments with this triple meaning as she says hello and goodbye to all her friends on the farm. Then, as she tucks herself into bed that night, she remembers that ‘shalom’ has one more meaning: ‘peace’. And with that, surrounded by the moon and stars, she falls into a peaceful night’s sleep.

**This is My Shabbat**
Written by Chris Barash
Illustrated by Aviel Basil
February 2023
8 pages
229 x 152 mm
£8.99 | $9.99
Hardback
9781784387655

A heart-warming bedtime story that celebrates Jewish traditions and the importance of spending time with friends and family.

What does your Shabbat look like? Join a little boy and his adorable puppy for a Shabbat spent in the sun, and learn about traditions and the importance of quality time with family, friends and neighbours. After a busy day walking to the synagogue and back, a delicious picnic with Gran and Uncle Dave, and playing on the beach with Sarina – one by one, everyone drifts off to sleep.
A heart-warming tale about following your dreams and the importance of accepting everyone, no matter where they come from.

When Saul was a little boy, he heard stories about a place called Eretz Yisrael – the land of Israel. Everything about it inspired him, and he longed to know what it would be like to live there and to walk barefoot in the soft, golden sand. But when he grows up and finally gets his wish, will it live up to his expectations?

A unique educational story that invites children to be creative and use their imagination.

This beautifully written, eye-catching lift-the-flap book takes young readers on a journey through the creation of the world. With the help of a magic paintbrush, the whole world is formed out of the darkness. First the oceans and land, then the moon and stars, followed by all the animals and people. Includes vibrant illustrations throughout and a full page of mirror foil on the final page.

A meaningful tale about the Passover tradition of letting go of the old to make space for the new, and how family traditions are passed on through generations.

It is the morning of the Passover celebrations and Workitu is worried. She knows that she will have to break all the crockery she has become so used to, including her favourite cup, the one she made all by herself. She can’t help but feel that she will be losing something valuable and meaningful to her. Then her auntie shares a secret she learned a long time ago, and Workitu is finally able to see this tradition in a new light.

A captivating tale by the award-winning Israeli author-illustrator Menahem Halberstadt that teaches children to be curious and grateful for the little things in life.

It’s time for bed, but Dora isn’t ready to go to sleep yet. Instead, she asks her dad a question: “Just one more thing... and then bedtime!” However, Dora and her dad soon realise that once you start wondering about the universe and the reasons why things are the way they are in the world, you will find yourself asking one question after another.

Barefoot in the Sand
Written by Hava Deevon
Translated by Gilah Kahn-Hoffmann
Illustrated by Rotem Teplow
August 2023
32 pages
245 x 245 mm
£10.99 | $12.99
Paperback
978184389260

A Beautiful World
Written by Yael Gover
Translated by Paul Kor
Illustrated by Gilah Kahn-Hoffmann
October 2023
24 pages
290 x 205 mm
£12.99 | $14.99
Paperback
978184388997

Workitu’s Passover
Written by Zahava Goshen and Maayan Ben Hagai
Translated by Jessica Bonn
Illustrated by Eden Spivak
February 2024
32 pages
220 x 220 mm
£10.99 | $12.99
Paperback
978184388997

Just one more thing... and then bedtime
Written and illustrated by Menahem Halberstadt
Translated by Romy Ronen
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An inspiring tale about the young Harry Houdini that teaches kids the importance of ambition, hard work and believing in yourself, even when things seem impossible.

At the age of seven, Harry visits the circus and sees a daring tightrope walker thrilling the audience. From that moment on, all he wants to do is to walk the tightrope. After much perseverance, he finally pulls off the performance of a lifetime. This innovative fold-out concertina book also provides a biography of Houdini’s life, along with details of three of his most famous tricks and how he might have done them.

A gentle story that celebrates the simple pleasures of childhood and the beauty of nature.

Every Friday, the children of Gan Meir kindergarten go to the playground on the corner of the street, where they play in the fields of bright yellow dandelions. They put the flowers in their hair and gently blow the seed heads, sending them fluttering in the fields like dandelion snow. But one day, they discover that the playground has been closed so new homes can be built in its place. Will they find a new way to spread the dandelion snow and bring life and colour back to their neighbourhood?

A touching tale about the value of kindness, inspired by the Hebrew Bible verse, ‘Cast your bread on the water, and one day it will come back to you.’

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 11:1.

One day, young Nuri falls into the sea while feeding the fish. As he marvels at the treasures hidden beneath the waves, the fish he had been feeding takes him to meet Wisewhale, the King of the Sea. Wisewhale teaches Nuri something that will change the young boy’s life forever. This is the first English translation of this magical story written by an award-winning Israeli author.

A beautifully illustrated story that teaches children to see the best in their friends.

When Duck and Hedgehog’s bicycles have flat tyres, they head towards Mrs Hoopoe’s Bicycle Repair Shop. On the long walk they encounter a few friends who seem intent on causing trouble for them. Duck is annoyed but Hedgehog believes that his friends must have their reasons and in the end, Duck realises that Hedgehog was right all along!
The Fabulous Tale of Fish and Chips
Written by Helaine Becker
Illustrated by Omer Hoffmann
November 2021
32 pages
215 x 230 mm
£9.99 | $12.99
Paperback
9781784385705

‘A fast-paced, humorous fictional account of how the iconic British meal, fish and chips, was created.’
Association of Jewish Libraries

Set in London’s East End at the end of the nineteenth century, this is a playful, fictional account of how the real-life Joseph Malin – a poor Jewish immigrant – invented fish and chips, the iconic British menu item. Written by bestselling children’s author Helaine Becker, this entertaining tale is brought vividly to life through fabulous illustrations by Omer Hoffmann. Includes historical notes and the author’s own family recipe for fried fish in matzo.

The Chocolate King
Written by Michael Leventhal
Illustrated by Laura Catalán
Recipe by Claudia Roden
December 2021
36 pages
218 x 247 mm
£10.99 | $12.99
Hardback
9781784386740

A colourful, award-winning historical fiction about the Spanish Jews who introduced chocolate to France.

When Benjamin and his family arrive in France to start a new life, they must rely on the only business they know, selling Benjamin’s grandfather’s famous hot chocolate drink. Their new neighbours have never seen chocolate before and they are not convinced by the strange, mud-like concoction. But when an accident in the kitchen leaves Benjamin covered head-to-toe in chocolate and he stumbles messily into the King of France, the family’s chocolate-fuelled dreams finally come true.

Lights in the Night
Written by Chris Barash
Illustrated by Maya Shleifer
December 2021
8 pages
203 x 203 mm
£10.99 | $11.99
Board book
9781784386603

A perfect bedtime tale with beautiful artwork that will delight readers.

This charming glow-in-the-dark picture book for young children celebrates the magic of Shabbat. As the sun goes down on a Friday evening and darkness descends, different sources of light welcome in the Sabbath: candles, lanterns, the moon and stars, fireflies, night lights, and then, the next morning, the sunrise. Told in gentle rhyming couplets and beautifully illustrated throughout, this is an enchanting exploration of light and dark, and a journey through the various rituals of Shabbat.

The Donkey and the Garden
Written by Devora Busheri
Illustrated by Menahem Halberstadt
February 2021
32 pages
210 x 210 mm
£9.99 | $12.95
Paperback
9781784386375

A delightful retelling of how Rabbi Akiva learned to read and write at the age of forty.

Based on a midrash, this is the story of how Rabbi Akiva overcame fear and embarrassment to go from humble shepherd to legendary Jewish leader – with a little help from his clever wife and a donkey with a garden on its back! Menahem Halberstadt’s charming artwork and Devora Busheri’s captivating text combine to create a beautiful and inspiring book about striving and reaching one’s goals.

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Benjy’s Blanket
Written by Miguel Gouveia
Illustrated by Raquel Catalina
February 2021
32 pages
230 x 186 mm
£11.99 | $13.99
Paperback
9781784386320

A gentle story of the love between a boy and his grandfather, the inevitable passing of time and the glorious power of imagination.

When Benjy is born, his grandfather, a tailor, gives him a colourful handmade blanket to keep him warm in his cot. As Benjy grows, he refuses to throw away his beloved blanket, even when it is ragged and torn. Finally, with the help of his resourceful grandfather, he discovers a way to ensure his precious gift will last forever. Based on a story from the Jewish oral tradition, this is a touching tale about childhood, family and creativity.

In the Market of Zakrobat
Written by Ori Elon
Translated by Shira Atik
Illustrated by Menahem Halberstadt
June 2021
32 pages
215 x 230 mm
£8.99 | $17.95
Paperback
9781784384814

A powerful story about greed, generosity – and how quickly everything can be turned on its head!

Based on an ancient folktale from the Gemara, this is the story of Yosef Moker Shabbos – Yosef Who Cherishes Shabbat. Cleverly adapted by renowned writer and filmmaker Ori Elon, it celebrates the joy of Shabbat and teaches the importance of generosity, kindness and hospitality.

The Peddler and the Baker
Written by Yael Molchadsky
Illustrated by Liora Grossman
April 2020
32 pages
215 x 230 mm
£8.99 | $17.95
Paperback
9781784386528

A delightful retelling of a well-loved folktale that demonstrates the joy of Shabbat.

Each morning, a poor but happy peddler opens the window of his tiny room and savours the delicious scent of fresh bread wafting from the bakery below. When the greedy and miserly baker insists that his neighbour pay for the ‘stolen smells’, the local rabbi steps in to ensure that justice is served. This charming adaptation of a timeless tale teaches the importance of sharing, generosity and kindness. A recipe for challah follows the story.

The Wise Men of Chelm and the Foolish Carp
Written by Isaac Bashevis Singer
Illustrated by Viktoria Efremova
September 2020
24 pages
228 x 228 mm
£9.99 | $12.99
Paperback
9781784385651

A brand new publication of Isaac Bashevis Singer’s classic tale about the foolish people of Chelm.

Written by the master storyteller and former Nobel Laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, this traditional Yiddish folktale is infused with his signature warmth and humour. This new edition, beautifully illustrated by Viktoria Efremova, will bring the famously foolish people of Chelm to life for a new generation of children.
The Magician’s Visit
Adapted from a story by I. L. Peretz
Written by Barbara Diamond Goldin
Illustrated by Eva Sánchez Gómez
April 2021
32 pages
215 x 230 mm
£12.99 | $21.95
Hardback
9781784382629

Who Will Ask the Four Questions?
Written by Naomi Ben-Gur
Translated by Gilah Kahn-Hoffmann
Illustrated by Carmel Ben-Ami
October 2019
32 pages
220 x 240 mm
£8.99 | $12.95
Paperback
9781784384630

A Basket Full of Figs
Retold by Ori Elon
Translated by Gilah Kahn-Hoffmann
Illustrated by Menahem Halberstadt
November 2019
32 pages
270 x 210 mm
£8.99 | $12.95
Paperback
9781784384722

The Heart-Shaped Leaf
Written by Shira Geffen
Illustrated by David Polonsky
September 2018
32 pages
276 x 215 mm
£8.99 | $12.95
Paperback
9781784382629

‘Luminous pastel illustrations that seem to flow and expose shadow, literally making the magic come alive. Great for story time for younger readers.’
Chava Pinchuck, Editor,
Jewish Values Finder

‘[A] highly recommended story... This is a good book to keep on hand along with the Haggadah.’
Emily Schneider,
Jewish Book Council

As Passover draws near, Eitan is excited about singing the Four Questions, just as he always does on Seder night. But this year, his little sister Evie insists that it’s her turn. When the big night arrives, things don’t go according to plan for poor Evie. Will Eitan help to save the Seder celebrations? This heart-warming depiction of sibling rivalry celebrates the challenges and joys of family, festivities and the all-important Four Questions.

‘Perfect for Earth Day and every day.’
Kirkus Reviews

Recreating one of the Midrash’s most delightful tales, A Basket Full of Figs teaches the value of the natural world and the importance of preserving it for future generations. Award-winning writer and filmmaker Ori Elon’s enchanting storytelling and Menahem Halberstadt’s stunning illustrations bring this wise fable to life, to inspire and delight young readers.

A Basket Full of Figs was included in the Jewish Journal’s list of the top 20 books of 2020.

‘A comforting fable about parenting, loss and love.’
Angela Kiverstein,
The Jewish Chronicle

This magical tale follows a little girl named Alona on her journey through a windswept park. There she discovers a gold, heart-shaped leaf with surprising powers. This delicate, vivid and moving fantasy was the winner of two international book awards.


This spellbinding tale has been adapted from a much-loved fable by I. L. Peretz – one of the greatest Yiddish-language writers of all time. Written by acclaimed children’s author Barbara Diamond Goldin and with stunning illustrations by Eva Sánchez Gómez, this is perfect for introducing young ones to the lessons of Passover and teaching the importance of faith, charity and kindness.
Lenny and Benny
Written and Illustrated by Naama Benziman
February 2021
48 pages
218 x 169 mm
£11.99 | $13.99
Paperback
9781784386221

Winner of the Merit Award 2019 of 3x3, The Magazine of Contemporary Illustration and the 2020 American Illustration Competition Online Award.

Inspired by the midrash about Kamtza and Bar-Kamtza, in which an inter-communal squabble ultimately leads to the destruction of the Second Temple, this is a story about the importance of friendship, the futility of conflict and how destructive an unresolved argument can be. This humorous and beautifully-illustrated adaptation includes an 8-page foldout section.

‘With enchanting text and detailed pictures, [this is] sure to become a family and classroom favourite.’
Angela Kiverstein, The Jewish Chronicle

When Shani is given new shoes for Rosh Hashanah, she doesn’t throw away the old shoebox; she reuses it for different Jewish festivals throughout the year: Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Tu B’Shvat, Purim, Passover, Yom Ha’atzmaut, Lag B’Omer and Shavuot. This original story will inspire kids to get creative while learning about different festival celebrations.

Shani’s Shoebox
Written and Illustrated by Rinat Hoffer
Translated by Noga Applebaum
June 2018
32 pages
240 x 220 mm
£12.99 | $15.99
Hardback
9781784382483

‘Shoham Smith has sensitively adapted one of the finest stories of ancient Jewish legend.’
Professor Avigdor Shinan, The Hebrew University

This is the inspirational story of Rabbi Akiva’s personal journey from a poor goat-herd to a leading scholar. Elegant prose from acclaimed author Shoham Smith and striking illustrations from award-winning artist Vali Mintzi illuminate this beautiful and universal tale about how it’s never too late to learn.

‘All ages will revel in Omer Hoffmann’s expressive drawings of the befuddled Chelmites.’
The Jewish Chronicle

According to legend, Chelm was populated by preposterously silly townsfolk. There are many tales of their foolish exploits and this is one of the most famous. Retold with a perfect comic touch by leading children’s author Shlomo Abas and illustrated by acclaimed artist Omer Hoffmann, this is a charming introduction to the topsy-turvy world of Chelm.

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Take a peek inside some of our beautiful picture books, created by award-winning writers and illustrators from around the world.

Harry and the High-Wire: Houdini’s First Amazing Act

Sheep Says Shalom

This is My Shabbat

Nuri and the Whale

Workitu’s Passover
A zany story about family, adventure and imagination, as well as gaining confidence and growing up.

Ben Jacobs has made a list of everything that could possibly go wrong at his bar mitzvah, but even he didn’t foresee that the shul might disappear just days before the celebration. The trouble is, no one believes him, apart from Grandpa. The rest of his family just carry on as normal – except now they are behaving rather oddly and there’s a strange light in the woods behind the house. Is it just Ben’s over-active imagination, or is something more sinister taking place?

An inspiring tale about the power of perseverance, friendship and family in the face of hardship, hatred and change.

It’s 1951, and after facing persecution, twelve-year-old Iraqi Jew Salman Shasha and his family are forced to leave their home in Baghdad for Israel, the ‘Promised Land’. But once they arrive, things are not what they dreamed they would be. Salman decides to focus on his greatest passion, swimming, and beating his rivals in a race. Facing taunts from bullies, Salman feels defeated, but soon realises that with hard work and determination anything is possible.

A compelling illustrated story for middle-grade readers set in a vividly imagined fictional world.

Weaving together fantasy, Jewish folklore and the powerful golem legend, Gottika tells a universal story about human rights, justice and standing up against oppression and corruption in all forms. Full of twists and turns, the book will have you gripped from the first page to the last. Features striking artwork by Vero Navarro.

A warm-hearted novel for middle-grade readers about grief, faith, friendship and family.

Calling Cobber is a thought-provoking story about eleven-year-old Jacob ‘Cobber’ Stern as he struggles to deal with some of life’s big issues, from bereavement and dementia to the immigrant experience and Judaism. It is about making decisions, answering difficult questions and working out how to process the past in order to look to the future. Full of warmth and compassion, it is at once funny, emotional and profound.

Calling Cobber
Sheri Sinykin
October 2020
256 pages
216 x 135 mm
£12.99 | $13.99
Paperback
9781784385750

A Boy from Baghdad
Written by Miriam Halahmy
October 2023
232 pages
216 x 138 mm
£9.99 | $12.99
9781784389901

A Boy from Baghdad
Written by Helaine Becker
Illustrated by Vero Navarro
March 2021
256 pages
216 x 138 mm
£9.99 | $12.95
Paperback
9781784385750

Calling Cobber
Written by Ivor Baddiel
Illustrated by Zoom Rockman
September 2023
144 pages
216 x 138 mm
£9.99 | $13.99
9781784389901

Ben’s Bonkers Bar Mitzvah
Written by Ivor Baddiel
Illustrated by Zoom Rockman
September 2023
144 pages
216 x 138 mm
£9.99 | $13.99
9781784389901

A Boy from Baghdad
Written by Miriam Halahmy
October 2023
232 pages
216 x 138 mm
£9.99 | $12.99
9781784389901
A laugh-out-loud novel for any child who loves Star Wars, science, football, or anything other than going to religious school!

Going Rogue (At Hebrew School) is a hilarious tale about the deep passions of a 10-year-old boy, Judaism, family and the surprising journey one can have in pursuit of truth and understanding. A perfect book for any child who questions the purpose of religious school and any parent who has run out of answers.

‘A beautiful, human story of a boy’s relationship with his grandmother.’

Rabbi Joshua Caruso

Awarded ‘Manuscript of Merit’ by the Association of Jewish Libraries, this is the compelling story of a 12-year-old boy determined to follow his dreams, while dealing with the challenges of growing up. It is also a moving depiction of the power of a grandmother’s love. Infused with affection for Jewish rituals, this will appeal to Jewish communities everywhere, while its deep humanity will resonate with readers of all backgrounds.

A complex and compelling mystery for older middle-grade readers, set in a vividly described 1960s Israel.

For 12-year-old Motti, the world is full of mysteries to be solved. So, when he and his best friend identify a suspicious elderly man in the neighbourhood as a potential German spy, they set out to unmask him. An homage to classic children’s mystery books such as Enid Blyton’s Secret Seven, this is a tightly-plotted, funny and complex story that explores heavy themes - the Holocaust, trauma, mental health and poverty - with a lightness of touch.

A reinterpretation of the story of Queen Esther, exploring issues of identity, freedom and the power of literacy.

In a world of discord and revolt, Darya – handmaiden to the enigmatic Esther – seeks to fix the world around her and protect her friends, while also trying to unravel the mysteries surrounding who she is and how she became a slave. As she grows from childhood to womanhood, she grapples with her own identity, her aspirations and desires, and begins to understand the true meaning of both slavery and freedom.
An exciting, fast-paced football-themed thriller for older children or young teens.

In this football-centred thriller, thirteen-year-old Nat Levy learns about being part of a team, when to take chances, when to accept criticism and when to stand up for himself. It also depicts the changing relationship between parents and children as they grow up and the effects of grief and loss for both sides.

A humorous, culturally Jewish story about creativity and self-belief, difference and inclusivity, friendship and family.

With the school talent show a few months away, Benny Feldman embarks on a quest to assemble a champion klezmer band to help him win the trophy. Along the way, he meets a jazz-loving drummer, a bow-tie-wearing clarinet prodigy and a braggart accordion player from Cajun Country. He also learns a great deal about the joys and sorrows that lie at the heart of klezmer and discovers that being different can be wonderful.

‘Gil Hovav masterfully mixes humour, compassion, talented writing and a pinch of nostalgia into a winning recipe for his readers.’

Etgar Keret

- The city of Jerusalem lies on the shores of which sea?
- Did Golda Meir love cockroaches?
- Why should you never go to the theatre in Tiberias without an umbrella?
- And how do you make sure that your daughter’s fiancé is not, heaven forbid, like Marcel Proust?

The answers to these questions and many others can be found in this book, which includes twenty-two funny and heart-warming stories, awash with love and longing for the people who raised one skinny and cross-eyed Jerusalemite boy to love poor-man’s food, to love proper Hebrew and, especially, to love people.
Jewish Flavours of Italy: A Family Cookbook

Written by Silvia Nacamulli
July 2022
344 pages
246 x 172 mm
£30 | $39.95 TBC
Hardback
9781784387785

This delicious mix of authentic recipes, history and family stories offers a unique insight into the centuries-old Italian Jewish culinary traditions. Lovingly compiled by professional cook, lecturer and food writer Silvia Nacamulli, it features more than 100 kosher recipes, from everyday homecooked meals to special celebration menus for Jewish holidays. Combined with stunning photography, practical tips and personal anecdotes, this captivating collection will be cherished by generations to come.

Babka, Boulou & Blintzes

Edited and introduced by Michael Leventhal
September 2021
144 pages
246mm x 189mm
£25 | $34.95
Hardback
9781784386993

This unique compilation features recipes by celebrated Jewish cooks and writers from around the world. Each dish presents a creative, utterly irresistible way of using chocolate. With a mixture of sweet and savoury dishes, imaginative concoctions and traditional recipes, this cookbook is for everyone from enthusiastic amateur cooks to parents hunting for new baking projects to do with their children. A true treat for chocoholics.
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