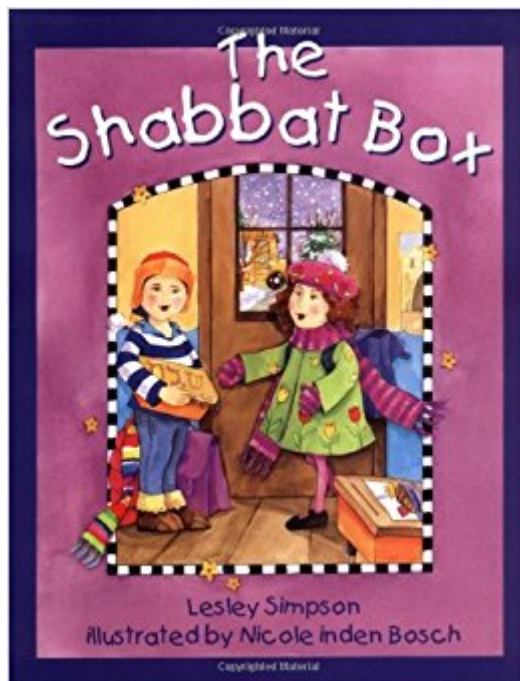


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The Shabbat Box



Synopsis

When it is finally Ira's turn to take his nursery school class's Shabbat Box home, he loses it in a snowstorm and must decide what to do next.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Kar-Ben Publishing (July 20, 2001)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.1 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #235,920 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #882 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism #1505 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

reS-K-Ira can't wait until it is his turn to bring home his class's "Shabbat Box," but when it finally comes, he loses the box in a snowstorm. Extremely upset, he takes his mother's words to heart when she asks, "How do you think we can solve this?" and he makes a new one to replace the original. Everyone at school loves it, but it turns out that his teacher found the lost box in the snow, so now there are two. The cartoon illustrations are done in a rather cloying greeting-card style and most people have round, red, pursed lips. The concept of Shabbat and the box's importance are never really explained, which limits the book's accessibility to people familiar with the holiday. Ira's dilemma and his solution are positive plot elements, if somewhat predictable, and the simple text, which captures the child's voice and concerns, will be accessible to young listeners. Libraries with a strong need for more picture books with Jewish themes and protagonists may want to consider this basic offering, but most will find it an additional purchase. Amy Lilien-Harper, The Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT Copyright 2001 Cahnerns Business Information, Inc.

Ages 4-6. Simpson doesn't attempt to explain Shabbat to children in this story, nor is there any

in-context description of terms such as challah, Havdalah, or kiddush. Even so, this is a satisfying, simple story that has both a winning character who doesn't let a setback get him down, and homey pictures that use bright color to charming effect. Every Friday, a child in Ira's class is allowed to take home the special Shabbat box that contains candles, a challah cover, and a kiddush cup to use to welcome in the Sabbath. Ira waits anxiously for his turn, but with 14 kids in his class, it's many weeks ("98 sleeps," as his mother puts it) before he gets his chance. Finally, the box is his. But on his way home, the unthinkable happens--he accidentally loses it. Ira's distress is clear; it's the solution to his problem that's so appealing. A sweet choice for larger collections, in keeping with the themes of joy and renewal at the heart of the holiday. Stephanie Zvirin Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

If you are trying to get your child involved in activities at Shabbat, this is great. We made our own Shabbat box at home and my son loves it. We learned about the book thru Preschool where the teachers share the story and then send a Shabbat Box home with one of the children every week so that they can write a little story in a journal and share it on Monday circle time. The story is very cute.

Ira's class had a teacher who gave each student a chance to take a Shabbat Box home to enjoy over Shabbat, but since there were fourteen children in the class, each student got a chance every fourteen weeks. When Ira's chance came, he lost the box. The story tells how overwrought he was, what he did, and the reaction of his classmates. The book is a nice introduction to one of the many ways that the Jewish Shabbat can be enjoyed. The author includes a page showing how children can make a Shabbat Box.

This is a wonderful book which has been enjoyed by my three youngest children, ranging in age from seven to eleven. The illustrations are excellent and conjure up a warm and inviting community. The author invites the reader to look at Shabbat through the contents of the Shabbat Box rather than simply showing a typical Shabbat experience. This stimulated discussion between my sons (and between them and their parents!) regarding the roles of each of the items in the Box and their place in Shabbat. My kids all identified with parts of Ira's personality; whether it be the longing to have the turn at taking care of the Shabbat Box, the sadness at losing it or the desire to replace that loss with something beautiful rather than just turn up at school on Monday with an excuse for having lost it. The instructions at the end of the book on how to make your own Shabbat Box were a bonus

and we now have two such boxes at home and two more in the making as special gifts to young cousins.

I found the Shabbat Box a charming story, delightfully illustrated. In these times I find it most refreshing to know that our children are reading books that have good old fashioned ideas like family , faith, caring and responsibility. Ira, a youngster after patiently waiting for his turn at school for the coveted Shabbat Box finally leaves school with this treasure. He loses The Shabbat Box on the way home. Ira's sense of responsibility and diligence in solving this loss of the Shabbat Box on his own teaches many lessons. I especially like the honesty of the little boy who realized how important this treasured Shabbat Box was. Ira made no excuses and was not ashamed to admit he had lost the shabbat box.

Year after year I have been reading this story to my students, and they love it each time. Some of them have the book at home, and yet they love listening to it in class. I usually read it on the same week they get to make their own Shabbat boxes.

My 4-year old loves this book- the story is sweet and the pictures are charming. I love that the little boy in the story takes charge and fixes his problems himself. We'll be making a shabbat box of our own to go with the story.

This is a nice story for classrooms or homes about a shabbat box that gets lost. about fixing the problem with your own resources and finally about shabbat, and all it takes to make it special.

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