



In response to rising antisemitism in the United States, the Association of Jewish Libraries offers the Love Your Neighbor series of book lists for all young readers. Books read in youth impact future outlooks, and it is our hope that meeting Jews on the page will inspire friendship when readers meet Jews in real life.

This is the sixth in a series of book lists intended to provide children and their families with a greater understanding of the Jewish religion and its people. This sixth list features books about the eight-day springtime festival of Passover, a major Jewish holiday that is one of the most widely celebrated of the year.

Passover and the Christian holiday of Easter, both springtime holidays, are connected. The historical setting of Easter is Jerusalem at Passover, and some think the Last Supper was a Passover seder meal. Yet, as the website [My Jewish Learning](#) explains in their article “Passover and Easter,” the holidays are quite different. The website tells us “Passover summons Jews collectively into the world to repair it; Easter proffers a way out of a world beyond repair.”

The relationship between the two holidays hasn’t always been congenial. For centuries, an ancient conspiracy theory called “[the blood libel](#)” —a bizarre accusation of ritual murder—was used as a pretext for deadly attacks on Jewish communities during the Passover season. Today, relations have greatly improved, and non-Jewish friends are welcome at many Passover seders.

We present to you these Passover titles, available in libraries, bookstores, and online.

The entire Love Your Neighbor series of book lists can be found at [JewishLibraries.org/Love Your Neighbor](https://www.jewishlibraries.org/love-your-neighbor).

Book List #6: Passover

PICTURE BOOKS

[The Story of Passover](#) by David A. Adler (ages 5-10)
Passover commemorates the Jews’ escape from slavery in the land of Egypt. The complex Biblical story of Moses and the Exodus is laid out in simple terms in this lovely picture book.

[The Best Four Questions](#) by Rachelle Burk (ages 3-8)
The youngest child at the seder always asks four traditional questions about what makes Passover unique. It’s a technique meant to keep the whole family engaged. In this humorous tale, Marcy makes up her own questions and learns a lot more than she expected to.

[Celebrate Passover with Matzah, Maror, and Memories](#) by Deborah Heiligman (ages 5-9)
Gorgeous National Geographic photos show Jews around the world celebrating Passover. Extensive back matter includes further information, recipes, map and a glossary.

[The Mouse in the Matzah Factory](#) by Francine Medoff (ages 3-8)
From wheatfield to box, every stage of the creation of matzah, Passover’s ritual bread, is watched by a curious mouse.

[Sammy Spider's First Haggadah](#) by Sylvia Rouss (ages 3-8)
“Haggadah” means “order” - it’s a step by step guidebook to a seder, meant to be used at the table during the festive meal. This haggadah is aimed at younger kids, and will keep them engaged with brightly colored collage art and interactive text.

CHAPTER BOOKS

[Let My Children Cook!](#) By Tamar Ansh (ages 8+)
Over 80 easy Passover recipes that kids can cook with help or on their own, accompanied by humorous illustrations and bonus craft activities.

[Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion](#) by Eric A. Kimmel (ages 6+)
A gorgeous compilation of history, stories, songs, poetry, and seder customs, illustrated with art spanning 3000 years.

[Passover Around the World](#) by Tami Lehman-Wilzig (ages 7-11)
A comprehensive tour of Passover customs from across the globe, accompanied by stories, recipes, maps, and fun facts.

[Penina Levine Is a Hard-Boiled Egg](#) by Rebecca O’Connell (ages 9-12)
In this middle grade novel, Jewish Penina’s public school class is assigned an Easter Bunny project, but she stands up for her beliefs and schools her teachers on diversity.

[Welcome to the Seder: A Passover Haggadah for Everyone](#) by Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky (ages 12+)
This Haggadah, with its lively art and its universal message on the value of freedom, is welcoming, inclusive, and easy to understand, for first timers and old timers alike.

[Puppet](#) by Eva Wiseman (ages 12+)
The blood libel is an ancient lie that Jews ritually murder Christian children and use their blood to make matzah, used as a pretext for violence against Jews. This dark story is a fictionalized account of the last blood libel trial in Europe in 1883. Not easy reading, but an important story.

[More Than Enough](#) by April Halprin Wayland (ages 3-8)
The traditional Passover song “Dayenu” means “it would have been enough for us.” This gentle story demonstrates mindfulness and gratitude during the holiday. A glossary and author’s note round out the book.

[Miriam at the River](#) by Jane Yolen (ages 4-8)
At Passover we retell the biblical story of Moses, including his babyhood rescue by his sister Miriam the prophet. This lovely volume focuses on Miriam’s experience.



THE “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR” SERIES

The [Love Your Neighbor](#) series of book lists was created by the Association of Jewish Libraries to grow readers’ understanding of the Jewish religion and its people.

The Association of Jewish Libraries, established in 1966, is the leading authority on Judaic librarianship. AJL promotes Jewish literacy through enhancement of libraries and library resources and through leadership for the profession and practitioners of Judaica librarianship. The Association fosters access to information, learning, teaching and research relating to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience and Israel. AJL is an affiliate of the American Theological Library Association, the Association for Jewish Studies, and the American Library Association.

Learn more at www.jewishlibraries.org.

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