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The Bee Season by Goldberg ✧ *A Palestine Affair* by Wilson
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Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay by Chabon ✧ *The Puttermesser Papers* by Ozick
The Plot Against America by Roth ✧ *Walking the Bible* by Feiler
Fabulous Small Jews by Epstein ✧ *Crossing California* by Langer
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(recommended for 6th and 7th graders)

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MIDDLE SCHOOL SEFER SACK

(recommended for 3rd and 4th graders)

Ike and Mama and the Once a Year Suit by Carol Snyder ✧ *The Magic of Kol Nidre* by Bruce Siegel
Mitzvah Magic by Danny Siegel ✧ *Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen
One Candle by Eve Bunting ✧ *Mr. Blue Jeans* by Maryann Weidt

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ADULT SEFER SACK – Choose any combination of six books:

The Bee Season by Myla Goldberg – Eliza Naumann, a seemingly unremarkable nine-year-old, expects never to fit into her gifted family – her father, Saul, absorbed in his study of Jewish mysticism; her brother, Aaron, the vessel of his father’s spiritual ambitions; and her brilliant but distant lawyer-mom, Miriam. But when Eliza wins her school and district spelling bees, Saul takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness. When Miriam’s secret life triggers a familial explosion it is Eliza who must order the chaos. (Autographed copies, while supplies last – 275pp)

A Palestine Affair by Jonathan Wilson – When Mark Bloomberg, a disillusioned London painter, arrives in Palestine in 1924, he and his American wife Joyce accidentally witness the murder of a prominent Orthodox Jew in their garden. Joyce, an ardent Zionist, is drawn into an affair with the British policeman investigating the case, while Bloomberg, transfixed by the desert light and turquoise skies, begins to grasp the complex truths of the region. (Autographed copies, while supplies last – 257pp)

A Trumpet in the Wadi by Sami Michael – Two sisters, Christian Arabs, live in the Wadi, the Arab quarter of Haifa. Mary is pregnant by their landlord’s son but is craftily negotiating a marriage with Wahid and placating his terrible mother. Huda feels closed and cold but is taken by the sounds of the trumpet played by Alex, a Russian Jew. The sisters live with their widowed mother and their Egyptian grandfather, and the dances between all of them ride the currents of Jew and Muslim, Arab and Christian. (244pp)

The Bielski Brothers: The True Story of Three Men Who Defied the Nazis, Saved 1,200 Jews, and Built a Village in the Forest by Peter Duffy – In 1941 after witnessing the execution of their parents and two siblings, Tuvia, Asael, and Zus Bielski fled into the forest and sent out the word that any Jews who made it to the woods would find a safe haven there. Over time, they gathered more than 1200 Jews, who lived hidden in the Belo-Russian forest. For two and a half years, the Bielski Jews courageously fought against the Nazis and built a thriving community. The historical role of the Bielski brothers in saving Jewish lives from the Holocaust has never been told – until now. (302pp)

Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith by Gina B. Nahai – When she is five years old, Lili, the narrator of this epic and magical tale, watches her mother, Roxanna the Angel, throw herself off the balcony of their house on the Avenue of Faith. Roxanna has left no explanation. Her family’s search for her reveals no body, no sign of a fall, no trace of an escape. The only witness to Roxanna’s disappearance, Lili spends the next thirteen years looking for her mother in the Jewish ghetto of Tehran, through the opulent world of Iran’s aristocracy, into the whorehouses of Turkey and at last, to Los Angeles – the city of exiles – where she and Lili are reunited. (376pp)

Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels – In 1940, Jakob Beer, a seven-year-old boy, bursts from the mud of a war-torn Polish city, where he has buried himself to hide from Nazi soldiers who have killed his family. Though he should have died with his family, he has not only survived but been rescued by a Greek geologist who eventually transforms him from a half-wild casualty of the Holocaust to an artist. (Autographed copies, while supplies last – 294pp)

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay by Michael Chabon – In 1939 New York City, Joe Kavalier, a refugee from Hitler’s Prague, joins forces with his Brooklyn-born cousin, Sammy Clay, to create comic-book superheroes inspired by their own fantasies, fears, and dreams. (639pp)

The Puttermesser Papers by Cynthia Ozick – Ozick relates the life and times of her most compelling fictional creation. Ruth Puttermesser lives in New York City. Her learning is monumental, her love life minimal. Her fantasies have a tendency to come true, with disastrous, but humorous consequences. Puttermesser yearns for a daughter and promptly creates one, unassisted, in the form of the first recorded female *golem*. *The Puttermesser Papers* is a fantastic read, touching on politics, Judaism, and women’s empowerment. (235pp)

The Plot Against America by Phillip Roth – When the renowned aviation hero and rabid isolationist and anti-Semite Charles Lindbergh defeated Franklin Roosevelt by a landslide in the 1940 presidential election, fear invaded every Jewish household in America. Lindbergh, in a nationwide radio address, publicly blamed the Jews for pushing America toward a pointless war with Nazi Germany. As the 33rd president of the US, he negotiated an “understanding” with Hitler. This is the historical setting for Pulitzer Prize–winner Roth’s startling account of his

Newark family's life when American citizens who happened to be Jews had every reason to expect the worst. (391pp)

Walking the Bible – Journey By Land Through the Five Books of Moses by Bruce Feiler – At once a heart-racing adventure, an archaeological detective story, and a spiritual quest, award-winning author Feiler's epic odyssey – by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel – chronicles his 10,000-mile trek through the greatest stories ever told. From crossing the Red Sea to climbing Mt. Sinai to touching the burning bush, from Mount Ararat to Mount Nebo, this inspiring journey will forever change your view of some of history's most storied events. Not unlike the Biblical Abraham, Feiler was not originally the man he became after his journey. (435pp)

Fabulous Small Jews by Joseph Epstein – A collection of eighteen stories features a host of characters at various crossroads and turning points in their lives, in a volume that considers such themes as identity, family love, and repressed impulses. (340pp)

Crossing California by Adam Langer – Three close families living in the middle-class and upper-middle-class areas of Chicago's West Rogers Park neighborhood find their lives and friendships impacted by world events from 1979 to 1981, including the Iran hostage crisis, Reagan's election, and the deaths of famous musicians. (501pp)

Triangle by Kathleen Weber – The fictional account of the last living survivor of the 1911 sweatshop fire, 106-year-old Esther Gottesfeld passes away leaving numerous questions about the fire, which is investigated by her granddaughter Rebecca and a feminist historian with a personal agenda. (241pp)

Triangle by David Von Drehle – Describes the devastating 1911 fire that destroyed the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York's Greenwich Village, the Jewish and Italian immigrants, mostly women, who made up the majority of the victims, and the implications of the catastrophe on twentieth-century politics and labor relations. (non-fiction 320pp)

YOUNG ADULT SEFER SACK

(recommended for 6th and 7th graders)

Dave at Night by Gail Carson Levine – When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance. (281pp)

The War Within by Carol Matas – In 1862, after Union forces expel Hannah’s family from Holly Springs, Mississippi, because they are Jews, Hannah is forced to reexamine her views regarding slavery and the war. (151pp)

Pharaoh’s Daughter: A Novel of Ancient Egypt by Julius Lester – A fictionalized account of the Biblical story in which the Egyptian princess rescues the Hebrew infant Moses who becomes a prophet of his people. In this engaging tale, Moses’ sister finds her true self as a priestess to the Egyptian gods. (182pp)

Confessions of a Closet Catholic by Sarah Littman – To be more like her best friend, eleven-year-old Justine decides to give up Judaism to become Catholic, but after her beloved Bubbe suffers a stroke and dies, she realizes that she needs to seek her own way of being Jewish. (193pp)

Hana’s Suitcase – A True Story by Karen Levine – A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana’s suitcase was sent to her. (111pp)

Real Time by Pnina Moed Kass – While going to work on a kibbutz in Israel, sixteen-year-old Thomas Wanninger is determined to find out the truth about the role his grandfather played as a Nazi officer in World War II, yet an unexpected event puts his plans on hold as he and a diverse group of people are forced to deal with a modern day catastrophe of their very own. (186 pp)

MIDDLE SCHOOL SEFER SACK

(recommended for 3rd and 4th graders)

Ike and Mama and the Once a Year Suit by Carol Snyder – Ike wants night-time blue for his once-a-year Passover suit but when Mama takes him and thirteen neighborhood boys shopping, he figures the chances of getting it are slim. (47pp)

The Magic of Kol Nidre: A Yom Kippur Story by Bruce Siegel – The magic of the Kol nidre prayer, central to the Yom Kippur service, is explored from the viewpoint of three generations. (32pp)

Mitzvah Magic – What Kids Can Do to Change the World by Danny Siegel – Twenty-one stories that recount the “mitzvahs” (literally *mitzvot*, plural of *mitzvah*, “commandments,” used synonymously with “kind deeds”) of ordinary children who are “Mitzvah Heroes” and suggest ways young people can help others. (64pp)

Molly’s Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen – Told to make a doll like a pilgrim for the Thanksgiving display at school, Molly’s Jewish mother dresses the doll as she herself dressed before leaving Russia to seek religious freedom – much to Molly’s embarrassment. (28pp)

One Candle by Eve Bunting – Every year a family celebrates Hanukkah by retelling the story of how Grandma and her sister managed to mark the day while in a German concentration camp. (Picture book format, but definitely for older readers. 32pp)

Mr. Blue Jeans: A story about Levi Strauss by Maryann Weidt - Traces the life of the immigrant Jewish peddler who went on to found Levi Strauss & Co., the world’s first and largest manufacturer of denim jeans. (64pp)

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<i>Real Time</i> – Kass		\$8	
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<i>The Magic of Kol Nidre</i> – Siegel		\$17	
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