Synopsis

No celebration of Hanukkah would be complete without recounting the events of more than two thousand years ago that the holiday commemorates. In a simple yet dramatic text and vibrant paintings, the story of the courageous Maccabees and the miracle that took place in the Temple in Jerusalem is retold. For readers who want to continue the festivities, a recipe for latkes and directions for playing dreidel are included.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)
Paperback: 32 pages
Publisher: Holiday House; Reprint edition (June 1, 2012)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0823425479
Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 7.4 x 0.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â· See all reviews (19 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #349,778 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish
Age Range: 5 - 8 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

I read this book to my kindergarten-aged daughter’s secular class when I was asked to explain Hanukkah to them. It does mention killing and being put to death- for this age group I simply said "getting rid of" and "punished" instead. Despite feeling the need to edit a few terms, I felt this book was the best of the many children’s Hanukkah stories I looked at- it isn’t too long, it uses pretty simple words and short sentences, and the pictures are really vibrant and interesting. The last two pages of the story briefly explain how Hanukkah is celebrated today, and I love the last line of the book: "Hanukkah celebrates one of the first fights for religious freedom". Religious freedom is an important value in our home and in my daughter’s school so it was a great fit for us. After using the book to explain the history of the holiday I followed up with "The Hanukkah Trike" by Michelle Edwards for a present-day Hanukkah story.
I use this in my kindergarten class. It's an easy story that helps the kids understand the reason for Hanukkah.

I have several Chanukah children's books. This one is the best yet. Simple and clear, this makes a great story to use in a classroom situation. The simplicity is great for presenting to a larger group, even for older children.

This book has great illustrations and includes the entire story of the Maccabees battle and the story of the oil.

My kids wanted to learn about Chanukah because my family lineage is Jewish. It's hard to know how to tell the story to a 5 year old and a 3 year old and make it kid friendly. This book was great for their learning.

I really enjoyed reading this book. The pictures really seem to match up with the way the story is told. There is also a summary about celebrating Hanukkah, a recipe, & directions for playing dreidel.

I was glad to find this book. I wanted a book that tells the story of Hanukkah for my kids who are 3 and 5 - and most of the picture books focused on current traditions. This one focuses on the history.

Great book, but some of it was too graphic for younger children.

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