

While Jewish stories can be read and incorporated into lessons and discussions any time, many of the stories in *Candle, Feather, Wooden Spoon: New Jewish Stories* also lend themselves to being shared in connection with different holidays. Please find here some suggestions.

ROSH HASHANAH

“The Flying Insect Café” is about a family who makes their living selling flying insect cuisine when Moses announces: “All flying insects are impure to you, they shall not be eaten!” In rethinking their menu, they realize that Moses never said anything about the *product* of flying insects. They could serve honey! But what should they dip in the honey? *Also relevant for SHAVUOT*

“Shalom Bayit” is about soulmates, one a school counselor and the other a math professor, who turn their marriage chuppah into the symbol of a national protest movement. *Also relevant for YOM KIPPUR, SUKKOT, TU B’AV and SHABBAT*

YOM KIPPUR

“Lace Theory” follows two astronomers who make an astounding discovery when they direct the technology designed to detect wobble in stars toward earth, revealing a shimmering filigree enrobing our planet, made up of our relationships. They also can see where this lacelike network is torn, and discover how repentance and right action can repair it.

“God Chooses a Genre” is told from God’s perspective as God, the author of all life, is trying to figure out exactly what kind of book God should write. Should the world be a love story? A fantasy? A horror story? Non-fiction? A choose-your-own-adventure book? Perhaps a mystery? *Also relevant for ROSH HASHANAH, SIMCHAT TORAH and SHAVUOT*

“Abraham’s Return: A True Story of *T’shuvah*” is about adult children discovering artwork after their father’s death, and upon learning that their father had never paid the artist as he’d promised, traveling to return the art and right their father’s wrong. *Also relevant for ROSH HASHANAH*

“The Goat Keeper” imagines a tribe of people living in the wilderness during Biblical times. Their founder was there for the Revelation at Sinai, but was so frightened, he ran. They are a people who worships the Fire on the Mountain, but did not stick around long enough to receive the Torah, leading to interesting rituals and traditions, and an interesting role they play. *Also relevant for SIMCHAT TORAH and SHAVUOT*

“Empathy: A Whale Tale” imagines the Jonah story from the perspective of the whale, who is so embarrassed after throwing up on the beach that he is afraid to face his friends, until he learns about empathy.

SUKKOT

“The Most Important Person in the World” tells of a religious school student who wrestles with the rabbi’s question, “Who is the most important person in the world?” After considering many possibilities, she realizes that the most important person is the one you are sitting next to. *Also relevant for ROSH HASHANAH and SHABBAT*

SIMCHAT TORAH

“Yofiel” is the story of the four archangels’ struggle to assign a role to Yofiel, because he is a bit of a clumsy angel. Ultimately, they assign him the role of “Keeper of the Secrets of the Torah,” knowing that, hard as he tries, now and then when a *chavruta* studies Torah together, Yofiel may let one of the great secrets of Torah slip, (like, why does the Torah start with the letter “bet”?) and cause revelations to happen. *Also relevant for SHAVUOT*

HANUKKAH

“Allison Searches for Her Hebrew Name” tells of a student who doesn’t have a Hebrew name. As she searches for her Hebrew name, it turns out that her Hebrew name has also been searching for her. *Also relevant for ROSH HASHANAH and SHABBAT*

“The Radiant Window: A Zoharic Journey” is filled with verses of Zohar, the foundational work of Jewish mysticism, and follows a person as they search for their true calling using a magical window pane that transforms night into day. *Also relevant for LAG BAOMER and SHABBAT*

PURIM

“JEW” is a fantasy in which two students are drawn into the swirling portal that once was the spraypainted word “Jew” and have to outrun and outsmart lasers, tank fire, and a butcher. In doing so, they learn about the depth and beauty of this word. *Also relevant for YOM KIPPUR, YOM HAATZMAUT and YOM HASHOAH*

“A Pock-Faced Beauty” is about a bat mitzvah student preparing for family photos who is insecure about her face in the mirror, until her great-grandmother, who was a makeup artist to the stars, shares the story of her scars. Many years ago, when her great-grandmother was a baby, her disfiguring scars scared off a mob set to start a pogrom because they thought it was smallpox. *Also relevant for SHABBAT*

PASSOVER

“Fairy Footprints: Why Matzah Has Holes” imagines the children of Goshen and their adventures rescuing their fairies from the Pharaoh’s magicians who want to steal the fairies’ powers.

“Candle, Feather, Wooden Spoon” is a grandson’s quest to find a magical fruit that will cure his grandfather of his bitterness. To find the fruit, he must outrun the plague of darkness and survive a series of trials.

“Shulamit bat Aminadav” visits the Sea of Reeds from the perspective of a girl who loves animals. Instead of looking in front of her when walking through the sea, like all the other Israelites, Shulamit looks to the side, into the walls of water. *Also relevant for SHABBAT*

LAG BAOMER

“The Magic Word” is about a college student who ventures to Mount Meron in Israel to seek out answers from a mystical rabbi. Ultimately, she learns that it isn’t the answers but the questions that teach us the most. *Also relevant for SIMCHAT TORAH, SHAVUOT and YOM HAATZMAUT*

TISHA B’AV

“Shades and the Rock on the Grave” tells of a disease that leaves a town crushed with grief, until an outsider discovers a way to anchor their grief that they may live and love again. *Also relevant for YOM KIPPUR and YOM HAZIKARON*

SHABBAT

In “Time Palace”, a legion of angels collects all the time humanity wastes, until humanity nearly runs out of time. The angelic kingdom ultimately breaks apart, and the time they had collected tumbles back down to earth. The people don’t want to squander this second chance. They elect the Jewish people to build a palace of time for all people.

“Catching the Wind: A Tallit Origin Story” is about two friends who meet in the marina. They realize too late that the boat they are in had not been knotted properly to the dock, and begin to drift toward the open ocean. But they know that by adjusting their sails to catch the wind, they can navigate back. *Also relevant for YOM KIPPUR.*

“Shmooney and the Shabbat Encounter” imagines a new character from Chelm who suffers from dementia. He forgets where he lives, forgets his community, forgets the prayers he used to love. One day, in a strange town, he hears everyone talking about Shabbat coming, and he thinks this Shabbat person must be pretty darn important. Perhaps Shabbat can help him find his way back home.

“Two Rocks: A Very Long Legendary Love Story” is about two incredible rocks that end up together in a sculptor’s studio. One is the very rock in which Excalibur had been held, and the other is the rock that Moses struck.