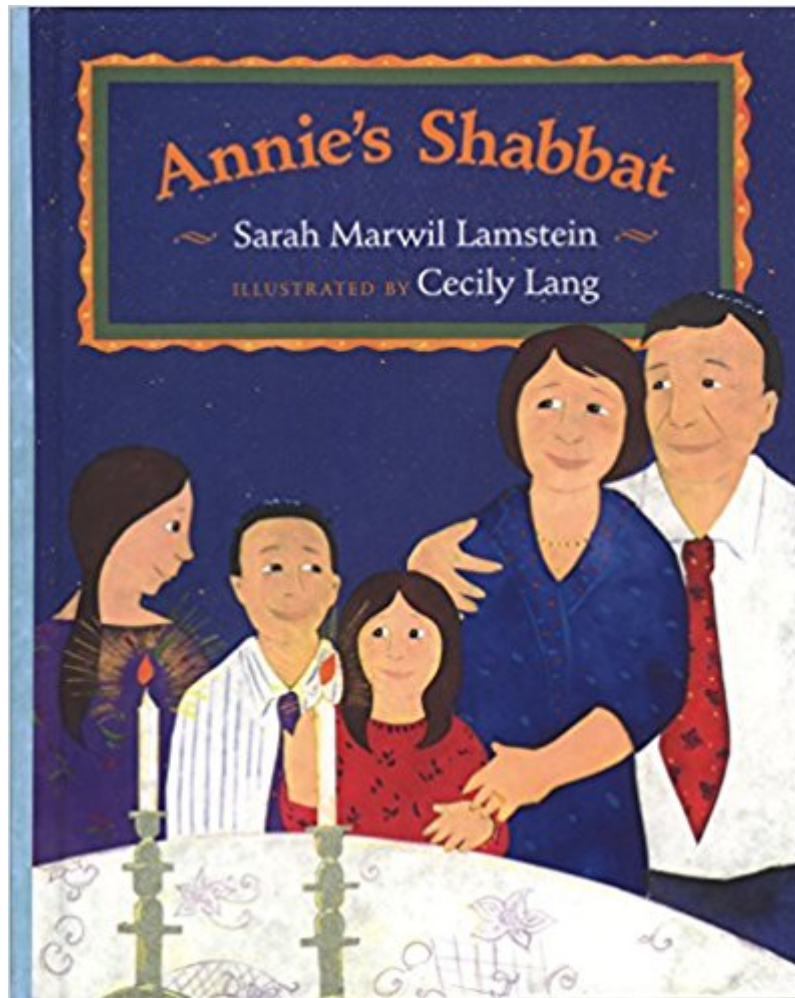




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Annie's Shabbat



Synopsis

From sunset on Friday evening to Havdalah on Saturday night, Annie and her family enjoy the delights of Shabbat. Interwoven with Annie's story are other tales of Shabbat, including the creation story, the story of the manna, and a tale of the "hidden Jews" of fifteenth century Spain, who had to hide their celebration of Shabbat or risk losing their lives.

Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company (September 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807503770

ISBN-13: 978-0807503775

Package Dimensions: 9.6 x 8 x 0.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3. In six very short chapters, a family prepares for the weekly observance, enjoys the Shabbat meal and its accompanying ceremonies and songs, attends the synagogue service, and participates in the Saturday evening Havdalah ritual. The story is merely a vehicle for conveying information about the Sabbath, either through Biblical and historical stories, or as explained by Annie, the youngest of the three children. Full-page, jewel-toned illustrations made from rice paper that is cut, painted, and glued onto solid backgrounds help to clarify the narrative and create a cheery, appealing format. Lamstein's very basic introduction to the holiday, despite its appended glossary, will leave non-Jewish children confused about various practices, while Jewish children whose families observe the Sabbath each week may find in the story a comfortable reflection of their own experience. Fran Manushkin's *Starlight and Candles* (S & S, 1995) includes the customs of giving money to charity and inviting others to share in the Sabbath meal.

Manushkin's use of family reminiscences rather than the Bible lessons gives that book a cozy warmth that relays the essence of the feeling of Sabbath joy to its readers. --Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH
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A warm story captures the essence of the Jewish Sabbath. In a first-person narrative that contains both wonder and down-to-earth fun, young Annie describes what her household is like from sundown on Friday to Saturday night when the first three stars appear in the sky. Observing Shabbat, as it is known in Hebrew, is commanded in the Bible, and Annie's family spends the day at home or at the synagogue, listening to stories and being with family and friends. Lots of attention has been paid to the book's design; plenty of white space and a nice-size type complement the evocative full-page art. The watercolors, which have the look of collage, are notable not just for the skill with which they are executed but also for the affectionate aura they exude. The interweaving of stories of Jewish history with Annie's activities on the Sabbath adds yet another interesting aspect to a book that shines brightly. --Booklist, starred review, October 1, 1997

Annie and her family make all the traditional preparations for the weekly Jewish Shabbat in this informative picture book. From bathing and wearing a special dress to setting out silver wine goblets and helping Mama with the chicken dinner, Annie prepares for the important Friday evening rituals of her faith. Mama lights candles, Daddy sings the kiddush and everyone enjoys a delicious meal topped off by apple pie. A Saturday visit to the synagogue with Grandma and Grandpa becomes part of the Shabbat celebration. Through Annie's young and enthusiastic voice, Lamstein conveys the practices of a contemporary Jewish family. Brimming with facts and sprinkled with Hebrew terms, Lamstein's text explores such essential symbols of the day as the Torah, challah and Shabbat candles, and relays the ancient stories of their origins. Lang's figures, painted on rice paper and glued onto painted backgrounds, convey the warmth of a loving family and their joy in their beliefs. Jewish families will find much that is familiar here, while those outside the faith may deepen their understanding of the Jewish sabbath. A short glossary is included. --Publishers Weekly, August 25, 1997

Six mini-stories celebrate the Sabbath, the event that highlights every traditional Jewish week. A young narrator recounts her family's preparation for dinner, the prayers they say and food they eat, her father's and grandmother's storytelling, the synagogue service, and the three stars that mark the end of Shabbat. What distinguishes this book from other descriptions of cultural experience is the clear sense of episode and the fact that individual characters replace the more usual generic representation. The illustrations, which are dominated by a deep and pleasing blue, offer clean contrasts of light and dark, shape and pattern. The simple text avoids the simplistic in projecting a child's voice. The father and grandmother both begin their tales (one about God's gift of manna to the Israelites, one about a child who must conceal her Shabbat celebration during the Spanish Inquisition) with "Wump upon a time" - clearly a one-family tradition. --Bulletin for the Center of

children's Books, February, 1998

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