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The Night Before Hanukkah



Synopsis

The newest title in the bestselling Night Before series is the perfect gift for every girl and boy who celebrates Hanukkah! It's the night before the eight-day celebration of Hanukkah begins, and everyone is excited! Each evening, the family gathers to light the candles and share holiday traditions such as playing dreidel, eating latkes, and exchanging gifts. The seventeenth title in Natasha Wing's bestselling series, The Night Before Hanukkah captures all the joy and love in one of the most wonderful times of the year!

Book Information

Series: The Night Before

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap (October 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0448481405

ISBN-13: 978-0448481401

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #303,543 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish](#) #494 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse](#) #542 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Poetry](#)

Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

Can a popular series written by a Gentile Colorado woman capture the essential elements of Hanukkah? Before contacting Natasha Wing, I wondered if her "outsider" status affected the authenticity of her Hanukkah picture book. After reading the book, I can attest to the book's adherence to modern Jewish traditions. In The Night Before Hanukkah, Natasha Wing skillfully uses her popular "The Night Before" series to expose children from all backgrounds to Jewish family traditions. In order to accomplish this goal, she spent time consulting with Jews who candidly shared their experiences. Relying on these facts along with the help of her Jewish editor, Natasha was able to write a charming story that highlights a Jewish family as they celebrate each of the 8 nights of Hanukkah. The opening pages are general in context. However within a few pages, the focus shifts.

Readers see the family's traditions and celebrations through the eyes of the two young children. The illustrator, Amy Wummer provide detailed illustrations that mirror Jewish celebrations. The Hanukkah or menorah is lit appropriately and yarmulke/kippot are on the father and young boy's head while they are reciting the blessings over the candles. The mother also has her head covered. All of the other Jewish symbols, traditions, foods and words are described and illustrated correctly. Anyone unfamiliar with the holiday will get a basic overview of the family traditions associated with the holiday and its historical significance. Since the book is being marketed to a general audience, it would have been helpful to include a short glossary that summarizes the less familiar words such as gelt, shamash, dreidel, Maccabees, etc. as well as some background information about the time of the Maccabees.

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