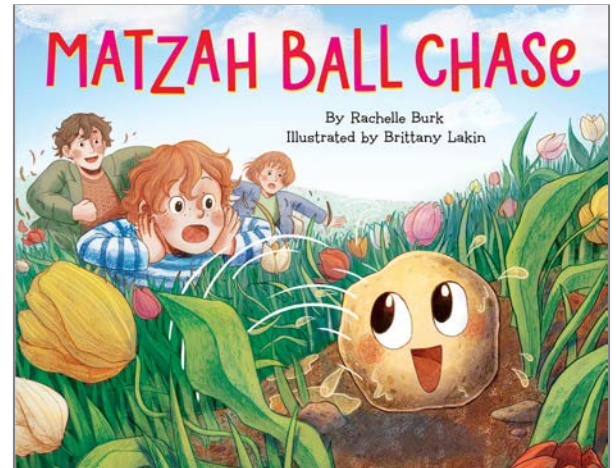


## About the Book

Just as a boy's grandmother puts some delicious matzah ball soup in his bowl, the matzah ball, animated and mischievous, jumps out and rolls onto the floor and out the door! As the family dashes after it, more and more people join the chase as the matzah ball rolls past landmarks, from cities to deserts and eventually to the sea.

In a spirited adventure reminiscent of *The Gingerbread Man* with a bouncy rhyming text that evokes the classic children's satire "On Top of Spaghetti" this energetic, independent, and particularly expressive matzah ball bounces through major landmarks in Israel.

Children will learn about the values, culture, and geography of Israel; from "Savta" being the Yiddish word for "Grandmother," to not wasting food, to the diverse landscapes and people living in Israel.



## Key Themes:

Diversity; Manners; Perseverance; Tour of Israel

ISBN 978-1-68115-636-1

Ages 3–6 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children.

Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

## Before Reading

- Do you know what a matzah ball is? Have you ever eaten one?
- Read the title of the book and look at cover illustration. Using those two clues, what do you think this book will be about?
- Look at the faces of the people on the cover. What do you think each person is feeling?

## While Reading

In the book, you will come across some words that are in Yiddish and others that are in Hebrew. See if you can guess what each one means. (They include: Savta, oy vey, matzah ball, s'lich, shuk, meshugeneh, schmutz, and Bubbe.)

(After you have read the story, see if you guessed right by reading their definitions in the glossary on the last page.)

## After Reading

- The adventurous matzah ball rolls around some very famous sites in Israel. Which ones did you recognize? Which ones were new to you?
- If you could pick just two sites in the book to visit with your family, which ones would they be? Why?
- Go back through the book and look at the different people in the book's illustrations. What kinds of clothing do they wear? Are they young or old? How are they the same? Different?

## Optional: Extension Activity

- Make your own matzah ball soup with one of these recipes:

by Joan Nathan: <https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/12348-joan-nathans-matzo-ball-soup>

by Jaimie Geller: <https://jamiiegeller.com/recipes/best-ever-matzo-ball-soup/>

- Look at the list of famous sites at the end of the book. Learn more about each. Find photos of each place online and look at them side-by-side with the illustrations in the book.

# Matzah Ball Chase

By Rachelle Burk | Illustrated by Brittany Lakin

# CHARACTER CUT OUTS



