

Robot Shabbat

By Laura Gehl | Illustrated by Dave Williams

READING GUIDE

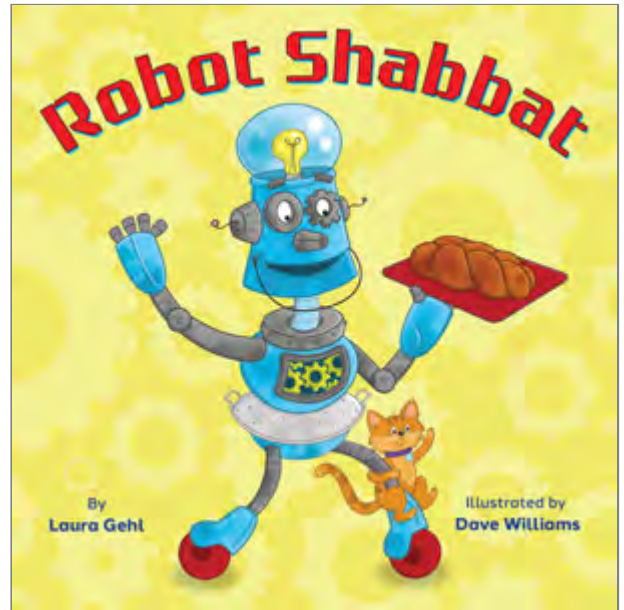
About the Book

In preparation for the weekly Sabbath dinner and celebration, a young girl builds a robot from household junk. The girl and robot become quick friends, vrooming around the space colony, baking challah, making matzah ball soup, and getting ready to celebrate with family. Together, the girl and robot light the Shabbat candles and sing the blessings. A science fiction Shabbat, told in fun rhyme with an emphasis on noticing sounds.

An author's note explaining Shabbat makes this a fun-filled introduction to this important Jewish ritual.

Laura Gehl is the author of nearly two dozen popular picture books, board books, and early readers. Her books include *One Big Pair of Underwear* (Charlotte Zolotow Highly Commended Title, International Literacy Association Honor Book, Booklist Books for Youth Editors' Choice), the *Peep and Egg* series, and *My Pillow Keeps Moving* (Junior Library Guild selection). Laura lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Dave Williams has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator in the North West of England for many years. Creating fun, bright illustration to help tell stories and educate children's imaginations is what he finds most rewarding about children's publishing. He lives in Greater Manchester, England.



Key Themes:

Friendship and Family, Helping one another, Shabbat Rituals and Tradition

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Ages 2–5 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

- The title of the story is “Robot Shabbat.” What item on the cover reminds you of Shabbat?
- Can you name other Shabbat symbols that might be in the story?
- Do you think this story will be real, make believe, or a combination of both?
- What do you think is going to happen in this story?

After Reading

- What does the child use to build the robot?
- How does the robot help prepare for Shabbat? Have you ever used any of these things?
- Close your eyes and try to imagine the different sounds and smells from the story. What are they?
- Why is Shabbat written Sha-BOT on the last page?

Optional: Extension Activity

Make your own Shabbat robot.

Option 1. Think about what kind of materials it might be made of. Use markers or crayons to draw what your Shabbat Robot would look like when it is put together.

Option 2. Create your own Shabbat robot using some of the following materials:

pom-poms, pipe cleaners, yarn, beads and colored paper.

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Character Cut Outs

