

The Secret of the Scent Map

By Elana Rubinstein | Illustrated by Jennifer Naalchigar

READING GUIDE

About the Book

In this fifth book of the popular SARALEE SIEGEL chapter book series for ages 6-8, Saralee becomes frustrated with her aunt and says some things she really doesn't mean. But when her aunt disappears leaving only a strange, scented map, Saralee must once again rely on a good friend and her super power—her sense of smell—to find her.

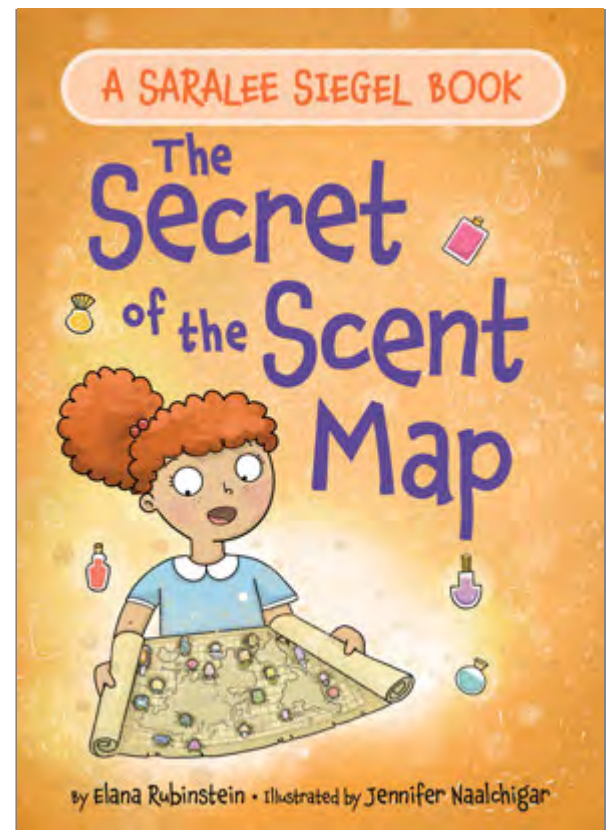
The Siegel family is busy, busy, busy! The entire restaurant has to prepare for Passover. That means cleaning everything, ridding the kitchen of all the bread products, and creating a completely new kosher menu. Everyone was chipping in to do their part. Everyone except Aunt Lotte. She got frustrated after polishing one spoon and now prefers to sit around while other people work hard. She even eats the food made for the restaurant's customers!

Saralee is getting more and more upset, and she can't hold herself back any longer. She says some hurtful things she doesn't mean. But when she goes to apologize, she realizes Aunt Lotte has vanished—leaving behind a strange map of the world with tiny glass perfume vials attached to it.

Saralee will need the help of her friend Harold as they figure out what this map means and how it will lead to Aunt Lotte.

Elana Rubinstein is the author of the Saralee Siegal chapter book series, including *Once Upon an Apple Cake*, A National Jewish Book Award Finalist; *Starlight Soup*; *A Donut in Time*; and *The Royal Recipe*. She is an early childhood educator living in Fairfax, Virginia.

Jennifer Naalchigar is a British-Japanese illustrator. After working as an Art Buyer for Oxford University Press, she decided that illustration was the career for her. Jen's client list includes HarperCollins, Hachette, Oxford University Press, Pearson, Random House Children's Books, Reycraft books and Scholastic. She lives in Hertfordshire, England.



Key Themes:

Empathy, Family Relationships, Making Amends, Passover

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Ages 6–8 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

- We have five senses: sight, sound, taste, smell and touch. If you could enhance one of these senses to be a superpower for yourself, which one would it be and how would you use it?

During Reading

- Share a story about a time when you felt someone wasn't doing their fair share of a project or task. How did it make you feel? How did you deal with it? Did the way you dealt with it have the outcome you wanted it to have, why or why not?
- At times we say things when we are angry or upset that end up hurting someone's feelings. What are some ways that might help you pause and think carefully before speaking out during those highly emotional moments?

After Reading

- If you could smelleport somewhere, where would you go and what would you do there?
- Share about a smell that reminds you of a time or place. (It could be good or not so great.)
- Aunt Lotte and Saralee are able to put a bandana over their eyes, relax, and smell their way to the smell dimension, a peaceful place to go when they feel overwhelmed. When you feel stressed or worried about something, having a strategy to help you calm down could also be useful. Here are some ideas: listening to soft music, going for a walk, cuddling with a pet, drawing or coloring. What else could you add to this list?
- Forgiving someone can sometimes be harder than asking for forgiveness. Holding on to those feelings can affect you even more than the person you may be upset with. Have you ever forgiven someone for upsetting or hurting you? How did you feel after forgiving them? Can you think of another person that might need your forgiveness? What would you need to do to forgive them?