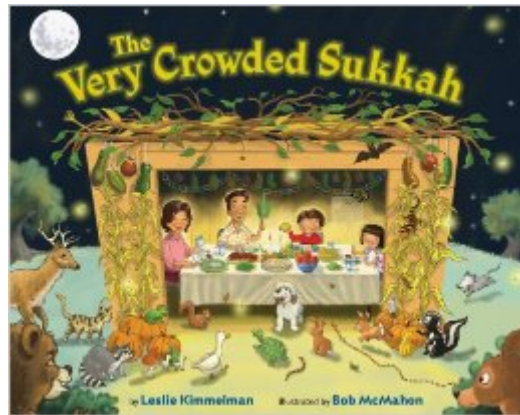


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# The Very Crowded Sukkah



## Synopsis

Itâ™s Sukkot, and Sam, Ava, Mom, and Dad are building a sukkah, or little house, outdoors to celebrate the holiday. They canâ™t wait to share their first meal inside.

Butâ”pitterpatterpitterpatterâ”it begins to rain. âœPoor little sukkah,â• says Ava. âœAll alone in the rain.â• But is it? It may be just the right shelter for some very surprising guests.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD480L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 1 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #394,145 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious #137 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #1057 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas

Age Range: 6 - 7 years

Grade Level: 1st - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

I cannot understand the message of this book. There is too little information about the holiday itself. The writer devoted more to a story about rain and animals, than about the significance of this holiday celebrating the harvest. Young children could learn about this holiday in more depth than is covered in the book. I would have preferred if the parents in the story had a greater role in explaining the story. Hearing the story from the point of view of the children is confusing. Jewish holidays are not mainstream events so they deserve a full explanation. The liner notes after the story is told gives more information than the book. I would have preferred that the story was more like those notes.

This book is supposed to be about the Jewish Holiday of Sukkot, a time when Jews venture outside

to eat in booths for 8 days (7 in Israel) that they build themselves. The booths have at least 3 walls and roofs made of branches or bamboo mats which have enough openings to see the sky. It is a commemoration of the time the Jews spent in the desert protected by G-d, but other than the brief explanation on the back page, you wouldn't get that from the book. The book shows that the family builds the Sukkah, it rains so they can't go inside, and then it gets invaded by a bunch of animals including ants, butterflies, bunny rabbits, etc. When the rain stops, the family goes out to enjoy a meal, but that night, the animals return. In short, nothing really about the holiday in the book. When the family sits to eat a meal, it says that their father "says the blessing", but neither the father nor the boy are even wearing ceremonial headcoverings known as kippahs. The book doesn't rhyme or have meter, so it really is a story about nothing. To top it off, the artwork is quite bad. It has an overly enlarged computer-graphic look to it, like the original images were made on a computer and then enlarged to the book, leaving edges a bit fuzzy from smoothed pixelation. It's not artistic, it's just bad. Not recommended.

Its a cute book my son was able to read it majority on his own. I like funding cute different books for my kids to read about the holidays we celebrate and this one is a great one to bring up around sukkot

Well, the illustrations are cute. Very, very little of the story of Sukkot is touched on. But, eh, overall it is not impressive. The family just has a meal in the succah, there's no singing, or sleeping, or benching... Too much of rain and animals in the succah (might sound cute, but we really don't want them in there, as it is our home for the eight days of the festival. My son was not impressed, although this may be because the book seems to be aimed at the 2-4 age group, now too young for him.

I found the illustrations to be fairly cute, and I was excited to see a children's book dedicated to Sukkot, but this book suffers from really awful storytelling. Soon after the sukkah is built, a rainstorm springs up. The family covers the sukkah and rushes inside the house while the neighborhood animals rush into the sukkah for shelter. Once the sun is up, the animals leave the sukkah and the family go into the sukkah to celebrate the holiday. The end. Aside from being boring, I found the story to be borderline offensive. Is the family too proud to celebrate sukkah in the rain? Granted I know little about the holiday, but I thought the point was to remember how the Israelites spent 40 years wandering the wilderness. Even the animals take advantage of the sukkah. Also, why do the

animals have to leave once the sun comes up? Based on the title and cover, one would expect this to be a story about animals joining in the festivities. What could have been a book with symbolic undertones of different cultures joining together in celebration, ends up making the holiday even more segregated. OVERALL: Decent pictures and gets a bonus point simply for being about Sukkot, but not at all recommended. The story is awful and there is only a brief explanation of the holiday (at the end of the book, more as a footnote), so it serves no learning purpose either.

The drawings are delightful but this book missed the mark by failing to discuss the meaning and purpose of the celebration. My understanding is that Sukkot is a harvest festival. Sukkahs are huts that memorialize the nomadic lifestyle of the Israelites during their forty years in the desert. While this is addressed on the very last page of the book, the story itself is devoid of background. Essentially it outlines the efforts of a family that builds a door less/gazebo shack in their yard. It rains and all manner of bug, bird and beast find use for it. Luckily, the weather clears and the family can enjoy a holiday meal in the shack. Little kids will love the illustrations but the story itself fails to educate, illuminate or entertain. The purpose of the holiday and the meaning of the ritual are lost. If you are seeking to expose your child to another religion or culture, this book will disappoint. I did like the portrayal of an intact family working together even if the purpose was obscure. If your child enjoys cute pictures and a mildly amusing story, they will probably like this book.

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