

The See-You-Soon Spice Box

Pamela Ehrenberg

illustrated by
Gabby Grant



Lerner 

★ AUTHOR'S NOTE:

In a world where so much feels uncertain, Silas and his great-grandma Faye both appreciate having rituals—and people—they can count on.

This guide offers young children and families a chance to deepen their knowledge of Havdalah rituals as a way to connect with people in their lives and traditions who came before them.

By getting to know the family in the story, readers of all ages can also consider how to strengthen meaningful connections between older and younger generations. And readers can think broadly about “community”—appreciating the many ways families are different and the connections that join us together.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS BEFORE READING:

- Is there someone you love who lives far away?
- How do you stay in touch with them?
- Do you have friends or family who are much older or younger than you?
- What do you like to talk about or do together?
- Have you celebrated Havdalah?
- What do you think is important for other people to know about Havdalah?

QUESTIONS FOR READING TOGETHER:

- What is your favorite part of Shabbat?
- What are some things that happen right on schedule in your life?
- What are some of the ways that you're "in between"?
- Can you think of some other fun ways of saying goodbye or hello?

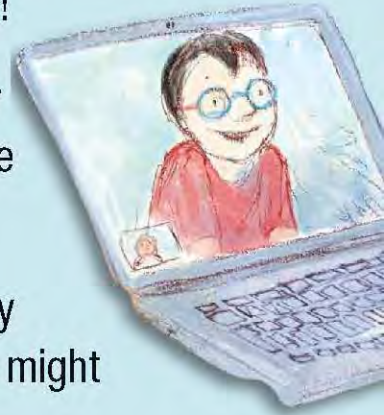
QUESTIONS AFTER READING:

- How do Silas and Great-Grandma Faye help each other feel special?
- Silas's great-grandfather, who made the silver spice box, isn't given a name in the story: what do you think his name might be?
- How can special rituals like Havdalah help us feel connected to people we might not have ever met?
- How is Silas's apartment building similar to and different from where you live?
- What might be fun about being a neighbor in Silas's building?



★ ACTIVITIES ★

1. Make a spice box like Silas's! Follow the steps in the story and choose your own favorite spice(s) to make your own spice box for Havdalah!
2. Who do you know who might enjoy a weekly “hello”—in person or on a video call? You could do Havdalah together or find another time for a regular, “no matter what” check-in.
3. How many other ways can you think of to say “see you soon?” Try writing a few on a separate postcards and sending to someone who might appreciate a smile in the mail!
4. Havdalah takes place after it's dark enough to see three stars in the sky. Which constellations can you find in the nighttime sky? Draw pictures of the stars you see and research the different names and stories connected with different constellations.



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Pamela Ehrenberg's previous picture books include *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas* and *Planting Parsley*. Her middle-grade novel *Detour Ahead* was a National Jewish Book Award finalist. She and her children live in Washington, D.C.

Gabby Grant is a graduate of the University of Westminster, with a degree in Illustration. Her favorite thing is the challenge of producing illustrations in a wide range of styles. She uses a combination of brush and pen and ink, and applies color digitally. She lives in the United Kingdom.