

HEBREW ALPHABET BIBLIOGRAPHY

Agnons Alef Bet

Agnon, S.Y.; translated by Robert Friend; illustrated by Arieh Zeldich. *Agnon's Alef Bet: Poems*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1998.

Known for his ability to evoke the rich imagery of the Bible and ancient Israel, Nobel Laureate S. Y. Agnon created a witty poem for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Imaginative illustrations and dual-language Hebrew-English text make Agnon's Alef Bet a much-treasured collection.



Goldeen, Ruth; photos by Bill Goldeen. *Alef-Bet Yoga for Kids*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2009.

Using traditional and modified yoga poses, kids can create the letters and also benefit from the stretching and strengthening offered by each pose.

Hoffman, Edward; illustrations by Karen Silver. *The Hebrew Alphabet: A Mystical Journey*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 1998.



Judaism has always regarded Hebrew as a sacred language, the medium of divine communication. And its letters are no ordinary forms. The very word for letter, *ot*, means sign or wonder. This book reveals the spirituality and power of all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, from *aleph*, which signifies creative energy, to *tav*, symbolizing wholeness and joy. Each concise, historical, and poetic letter profile, written by Judaica scholar Edward Hoffman, is accompanied by a lustrous illustration wrought in hues of olive, blue, and silver.

Kushner, Lawrence. *The Book of Letters: A Mystical Hebrew Alphabet*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 1990 (2nd ed.).



When you open the old prayerbook-like pages of *The Book of Letters* you enter a special world of sacred tradition and religious feeling. More than just symbols, all twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet overflow with meanings and personalities of their own. Rabbi Kushner draws from ancient Judaic sources, weaving Talmudic commentary, Hasidic folktales and Kabbalistic mysteries around the letters. Each letter is illuminated and, together with the comments, is presented in the author's original calligraphy, recalling the look and feel of ancient medieval manuscripts.



Maisel, Grace Ragues, and Samantha Shubert; illustrated by Tammy L. Keiser. "Alef Wins," in A Year of Jewish Stories: 52 Tales for Young Children and Their Families. New York: UAHC Press, 2004.

A retelling of the classic midrash about creation and the letters of the alphabet. When God was ready to create the world and wondered where to begin, the twenty-two Hebrew letters burst from God's crown and argue for why they should be selected to begin the process.



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Podwal, Mark. *A Book of Hebrew Letters*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1992.



The twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet are not considered by the Jewish sages to be merely forms that make up words, but rather the fundamental elements that the Almighty uses to create the world. Working in a mode that combines traditional Jewish styles with his own distinctive line and vision, Mark Podwal has conceived this series of twenty-two drawings, each illustrating, in Hebrew alphabetic sequence, a term deriving from Jewish tradition and experience.



Rapp, Steven A. *Aleph-Bet Yoga: Embodying the Hebrew Letters for Physical and Spiritual Well-Being*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 2002.

This unique guide shows both the yoga enthusiast and the yoga novice how to use hatha yoga postures and techniques to physically connect with Jewish spirituality.



Reudor; art by Jack Knight, Reudor, and Burt Griswold. *The Hebrew Letters Tell Their Story*. New York: Pitspopany, 199.

The Hebrew Alef Bet letters meet the Doodle Family in an animated, full color adventure where pooches fly and camels water ski. Each illustrated page has a rhyme. New Hebrew words appear at the bottom of each page. Children discover the Hebrew and English meaning of each word through the picture and rhyme.

Rhine, Adam. *Hebrew Illuminations*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1982.



Offers inspired art that speaks both to the heart and to the mind. Rhine presents twenty-two traditional Hebrew letters illuminated by watercolors to enhance his striking calligraphic rendering of this ancient language of communication between Hashem—The Higher Name—and the Jewish people. Using Psalm 145 ("Praise the Lord, O My Soul") to provide context, each illumination is accompanied by the artist's meditative reflections that invite us to contemplate the deeper meanings ourselves.



Shahn, Ben. *The Alphabet of Creation: An Ancient Legend from the Zohar*. New York: Schocken, 1965.

The legend – from the mystical work of Moses de Leon, a scholar of early fourteenth-century Spain – fired Ben Shahn's imagination. He promptly turned the words and letters into a kind of visual magic in which the true spirit of the wonderful is magnificently suggested. There are forty-six pictures all together, the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet and twenty-four drawings.