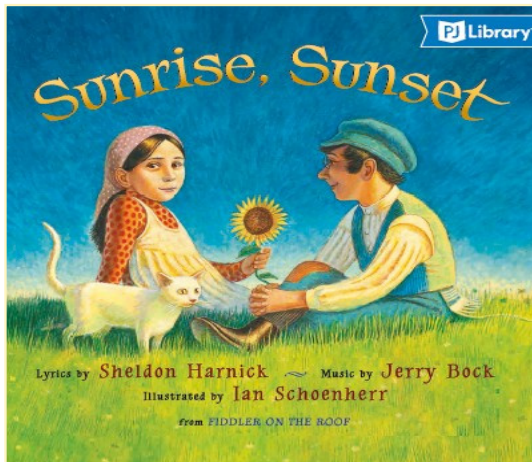


{ How can we savor each moment? }



HANDS ON!

Make a Baby Print Calendar

We can't slow down time, but we can savor moments along the way. Mark the moments with your baby's hand- and footprints and make a calendar.

Supplies:
Nontoxic acrylic paint
Paper plates
Poster board

Once a month, take your baby's handprints and footprints. To do this, set up a little acrylic paint in a paper plate. Dip your baby's palms and feet into the paint and then press them onto a piece of posterboard. Write the month at the top of each set of prints.

When you have twelve sets of prints (one for each month) scan the images, then arrange them in a calendar template online (or send them to a service that will make them for you). Make extra copies -- this calendar will make a perfect gift for relatives who cherish spending time with your baby as much as you do.

A Story for the Ages

Usually PJ Library sends books -- but this time we're really sending a song. You may already know the tune: "Sunrise, Sunset" is one of the best-known songs from *A Fiddler on the Roof*. Set in a shtetl (Yiddish for "little town") in tsarist Russia near the turn of the 20th century, *Fiddler* is the story of a Jewish family trying to live a life of tradition in a time of transformation and danger. Though the family experiences hardship, the love they share is clear, which is partly why this song is a staple at many Jewish milestone events! We hope you consider singing this book your little ones. If you're not familiar with the tune, look it up online. Just try not to get verklempt (Yiddish for "choked up") as you sing it.

Sholem Aleichem

Fiddler on the Roof is based on "Tevye the Milkman," a short story written in 1894 by the author Sholem Aleichem. One of the most famous Yiddish writers, he was sometimes called "the Jewish Mark Twain." He ultimately moved from his native Russia to New York, where he died in 1916. The day after his funeral, which drew 100,000 mourners, his will was published by *The New York Times*. In it, he asked that friends and family gather to "read my will, and also select one of my stories, one of the very merry ones, and recite it in whatever language is most intelligible to you. Let my name be recalled with laughter," Sholem Aleichem asked, "or not at all." To this day, his name is indeed associated with laughter.

From Generation to Generation

The song "Sunrise, Sunset" highlights the cycle of life by following two children as they grow up. That cycle may seem to roll by faster and faster each passing year, but marking milestones and special events along the way helps to slow down time enough to allow us to notice all the ways we change and grow each year. The Jewish value of *l'dor vador* (Hebrew for "from generation to generation") emphasizes the important role that older family members play in young people's lives, passing on cultural traditions as they continue cycling through life. Perhaps that's why one of the other most famous songs from *Fiddler in the Roof* is "Tradition"!