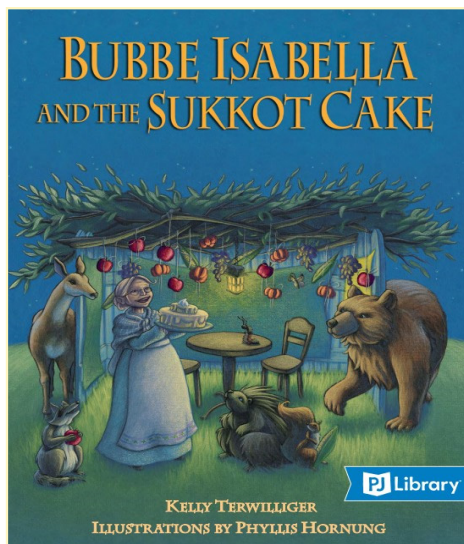


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{ **How do we welcome others??** }

Fall Festival

Sukkot, a weeklong fall harvest holiday, celebrates the fruits of that harvest (literally) and reminds us to be grateful for the abundance in our lives. It's traditional to build a sukkah, a temporary outdoor hut, just as Bubbe Isabella does in this book. Many families eat, visit with friends, and sometimes even sleep in their sukkah during Sukkot. One lovely benefit of spending time in a sukkah is that it reconnects us with nature — a cool breeze, the chirping of birds, the glow of moon and stars (which must be visible through the greenery that forms the sukkah's roof). What better way to celebrate the bounty of fall? To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/bubbeisabella.

HANDS ON!

Make Lemon Dessert Sandwiches

Bubbe Isabella's lemon cake looks delicious, but you don't have to bake a cake to welcome guests to your sukkah. Here's a quick snack that even little ones can make, and it's every bit as delicious.

Ingredients:

Plain shortbread cookies or tea biscuits
Lemon curd
Cream cheese

This is just as easy as making a peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich. Spread a little lemon curd on top of one cookie and a little cream cheese on the top of another cookie. Put the two cookies together, and voila: a lemon dessert sandwich. Make sure to prepare extras for unexpected visitors!

A Gracious Host

Bubbe Isabella has baked a cake to entice guests to her sukkah, but caterpillars, moths, squirrels, and raccoons don't eat cake — and when a bear arrives, well, things get a little sticky! Nonetheless, Bubbe Isabella is ever the gracious host, offering each of her guests food, shelter, and companionship. Hachnasat orchim (Hebrew for "welcoming guests") is one of the most important Jewish values, and there's no better time to put it into action than Sukkot. A sukkah makes it easy to host lots of guests — human or otherwise.

Food for Thought

Why did Bubbe Isabella bake a lemon cake? No particular reason. It's customary to eat apples and honey at Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and many people fry latkes (potato pancakes) at Hanukkah, but Sukkot is one of the few Jewish holidays that doesn't have any traditional foods associated with it. If you're planning a party for Sukkot, go ahead and make whatever you like. The point is to offer something you think your guests will enjoy (hopefully not the roof or walls of your sukkah!).

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

BUBBE Isabella bakes a lemon cake and sings a welcome song to help make guests feel welcome. How do you like to welcome guests?

BUBBE is the Yiddish word for "grandmother." What do you call the grandparents or special older adults in your life?

CAN you name all the different animals who visit Bubbe in her sukkah? Does Bubbe seem happy to have animal guests? How can you tell?