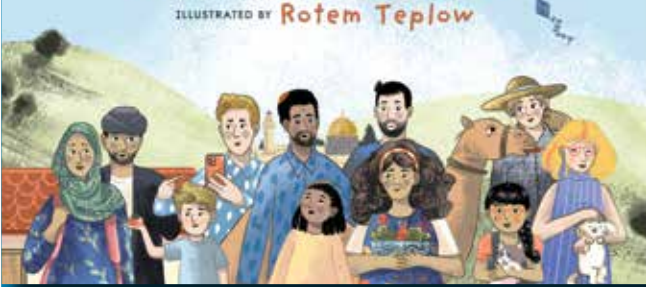


# MY ISRAEL AND ME

Alice Blumenthal McGinty  
ILLUSTRATED BY Rotem Teplow



ISBN: 978-1-7350875-3-5 / \$19.99

# MY ISRAEL AND ME

## ACTIVITY GUIDE



### Meet the Author

Alice Blumenthal McGinty delights in igniting imaginations. As the award-winning author of almost 50 children's books, she makes fiction and nonfiction accessible, engaging, and fun. Her books include Jr. Library Guild Selection *The Water Lady*, Kirkus' Best of 2020 *A Story for Small Bear*, 2019 Northern Lights Book Award Winner (Food Category) *Pancakes to Parathas: Breakfast Around the World*, and 2015 Sydney Taylor Notable book *Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons*. Alice is a frequent presenter at schools and conferences, and loves to travel the world. Visit Alice at [alicebmcginty.com](http://alicebmcginty.com)



### Meet the Illustrator

Rotem Teplow is an illustrator living and working in Israel. She graduated from Shenkar College of Design in 2016, and she works with newspapers, magazines, and publishers worldwide. Visit Rotem at [rotemteplow.co.il](http://rotemteplow.co.il)

# LET'S TALK

## Let's talk about the people who live in Israel

Imagine you are on a bus in Israel. At each stop, the bus picks up another person you've seen in the book.

- Who are you most curious about?
- Who seems the most similar to you?
- Who seems different from you?
- What would you like to ask them about their life?
- What would you tell them about your life?

## Let's talk about the places in Israel

Now the bus is traveling through the cities and countrysides of Israel.

- Where would you like to get off and explore?
- What place do you think is most like your home?
- What place is least like your home?

## Let's talk about some of the foods in Israel

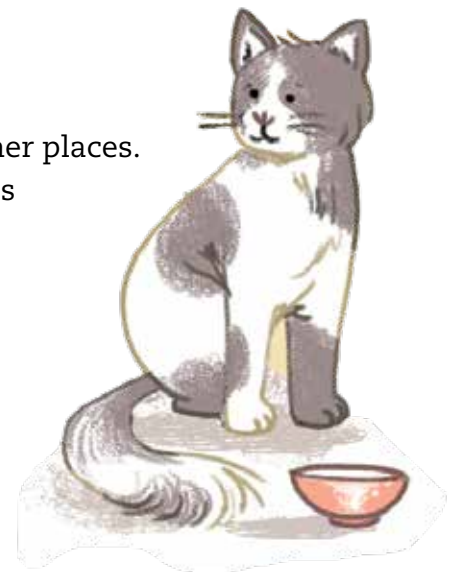
You have been riding the bus for a while now and it is time for a snack. You have seen some interesting food in the book.

- Which foods would you like to try?
- Pretend you packed some food from home. Which foods would you share with your new friends from the bus?

## Let's talk about ways to learn about other people and their cultures

- Travel to another country.
- Talk to people you know who come from a different place.
- Ask an adult to help you find a pen pal.  
Here's one place to try: [MyLanguageExchange.com](http://MyLanguageExchange.com).
- Read newspaper and magazine articles and books about other places.
- Ask an adult to help you find movies, music, or internet sites from other cultures.

Activity Guide discussion questions © 2021 by Rachel Levitt Klein Dratch,  
Director of Educational Innovation, Prizmah.



# TRY THIS

## Cultural Match-up

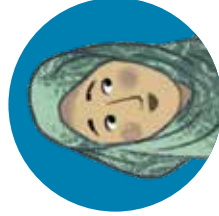
**Directions:** Draw a line from the person (or animal) to an item that they might find meaningful.



WATER SCIENTIST



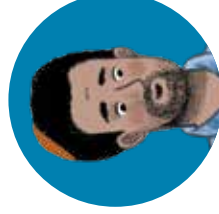
BEDOUIN



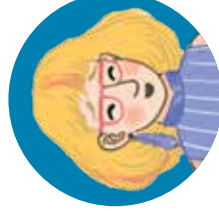
MUSLIM



JEW



IMMIGRANT



CITY DWELLER



KIBBUTZ RESIDENT



CAT



DALLAH FOR TEA



CHALLAH



PERSIMMONS



ETHIOPIAN ANCESTOR



GRAFFITI



TESTING EQUIPMENT



TREAT DISH



SHAHADA

# JUST FOR FUN

## Let's Play a game!

Throughout the story we learned about some of the different places in Israel. There is **Haifa** in the north, **Tel Aviv** on the coast, the **Negev Desert** in the south, and near the middle of Israel—**Jerusalem**.

Now, with what we learned let's play a game. We need to prepare for the game, so stand up. Are you ready? We are going to make our bodies into a map of Israel!

Our one foot is the south. What's in the south? Yes! The Negev!

Now, bend your right foot that will make the west coast. What's there? That's right—it's the city of Tel Aviv! It's at your hip.

Now in the middle is your belly; that's going to be Jerusalem.

At the top is your head, and near the top of Israel is the city of Haifa.

Can you guess the game? It's Simon Says!  
But because we're in Israel, let's call it Shimon Says!

If Shimon says touch Haifa then touch your head.  
If Shimon says touch Tel Aviv then touch your hip.  
If Shimon says touch Jerusalem touch your belly.  
If Shimon says touch the Negev then touch your toes!

But remember to listen closely. If you don't hear "Shimon says," don't do it or you'll lose the game!

