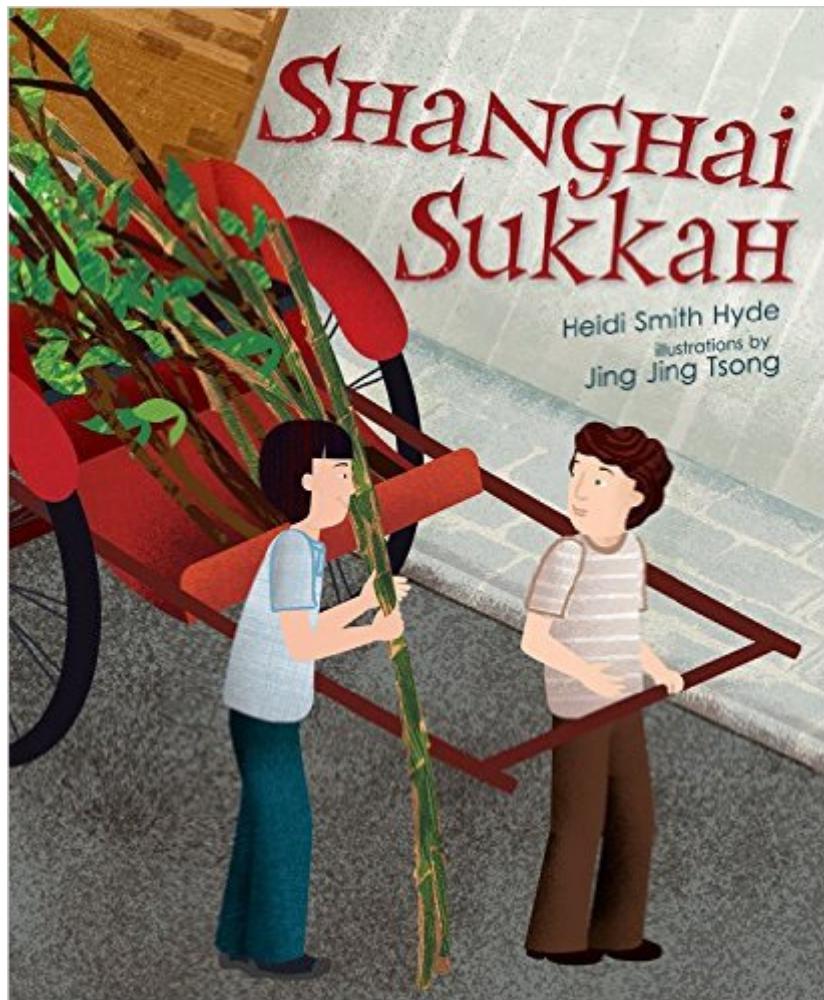


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# Shanghai Sukkah



## **Synopsis**

Fleeing the Holocaust in Europe, Marcus moves with his family from Berlin to Shanghai. With help from his new friend Liang, Marcus sets out to build a unique sukkah in time for the harvest festival of Sukkot.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD650L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Kar-Ben Publishing (August 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1467734756

ISBN-13: 978-1467734752

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #416,509 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious #3039 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

This is a story of how a Jewish family fled for their safety to China, in the Shanghai Ghetto in the 1930's. The family went from what was comfortable and familiar to them, to a cramped living space they shared with many families, in a place that was unfamiliar to them. In spite of the hard conditions, a young boy named Marcus made a Chinese friend and they accept each other even though they have differences and teach something important to each other. I believe this book will help children to understand what life was like for Jewish people in the 1930's. In my opinion, it does a great job of showing how Sukkot may have been celebrated during that time in China by Jewish people. It also teaches about what is needed in every generation and every people group: love and kindness towards each other, no matter how different people are from each other. The illustrations bring the story more alive and will help show what the people and places might've looked like to children during those times. I received this book free from the publisher in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

In the 1930s Jewish families escaped from Berlin and the war and fled to Shanghai. A young boy named Marcus had to learn to adapt. He made a friend named Liang and they learned to communicate and became good friends. Marcus needed to build a Sukkah to celebrate the fall harvest holiday of when the Jewish recall the biblical days of wandering the desert, living in huts, after the Exodus from Egypt. The only place to build one is on the roof. Marcus and his friends worked hard but the Sukkah was very plain. After sharing in the Chinese Moon Festival with Liang perhaps there was a way to bring both holidays together and add zest to his Sukkah. Author Heidi Smith Hyde shares a story of Jewish culture but also about what it must have been like for Jews living in China. Colorful illustrations depict the life style of that era. Simple sentence structure makes this a good read for beginners. The back of the book has a historical note that shares true stories alongside actual photos of Jews and their homes in Shanghai. Parents and teachers can discuss history, a people and their cultures.

A young boy named Marcus had to move with his family from Berlin to Shanghai fleeing the Holocaust in Europe. While playing in his new place with other Jewish boys, he made a new friend named Liang. Although they spoke different languages, they learned how to communicate and became good friends. Marcus needed to build a Sukkah to celebrate the fall harvest holiday. Marcus and his friends worked hard to keep his traditions abroad and found the only place to build one on the roof, but made a simple Sukkah. Liang shared his harvest holiday called Moon Festival and invited Marcus to celebrate with him. Liang added enthusiasm to his Sukkah by bringing colorful lanterns to Marcoâ™s Sukkah. Marcus and Liang found a way to bring both holidays together. Author Heidi Smith uses simple sentence structure to make a good read for k-4 graders. Colorful illustrations depict the life style of a story of Jewish culture living in China. The back of the book has an informative historical notes and photos of Jews and their homes in Shanghai. Parents and teachers can discuss history and cultures. I highly recommend this book,

I think my only criticism of this book is how much it glosses over the struggle of learning another's language in the beginning, but it just feels so off for that to have not been mentioned, but for a single line. After we're told they speak different languages, the book just moves on. I don't need a huge focus, but it bugged me. I like this focus on a story of the Jews with which I was completely unfamiliar, and which will be similarly new to many people. There's just this block in my head that said Jewish refugees went to America, and this book makes sure we know that America wasn't the

first refugee site, and wasn't even the friendliest. A good book for teaching Jewish children more about their history, and for showing children of different backgrounds that we can all bond and get along. Great for a Jewish school or household.

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