

**AROUND THE YEAR  
IN RHYMES FOR THE  
JEWISH CHILD**

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Around the Year in Rhymes for the Jewish Child by Jessie E. Sampter

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**JESSIE E. SAMPTER**

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IN RHYMES

FOR

THE JEWISH CHILD

BY  
JESSIE E. <sup>the</sup>SAMPTER



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I DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO  
JEWISH CHILDREN  
AND ESPECIALLY TO TWO OF THEM,  
EDGAR AND JESSIE

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## FOREWORD

Jewish girls and boys, these rhymes were written for you—a number of them have been printed before, in *The Jewish Child* and in *The Young Judæan*, and it is by their kind permission that they are being printed here. But they were not written for editors and publishers; they were written for you. And I truly declare—and I do not care what editor reads it—that I care very much more for your opinion of these rhymes that were written for you than I care for the opinion of any editor. Every author has a fair amount of vanity—I may as well confess it—and I have very much cared and been very happy when I heard that certain boys and girls liked certain of my rhymes. I have never been more proud than I was one day when I found one of my rhymes written in a round school hand on the blackboard in a Hebrew school-room. Forgive my vanity! It is because I love them—because I love the Jewish children—that I care so much for their opinion.

But there is something much more important than my love for Jewish children or your love for rhymes, if you do care for them, and that is



our great wish, yours and mine, to do things that make it interesting to be Jewish. Jewish history and Jewish customs are brim full of interesting stories and ideas, as you know, but life is so full of other things, and it is often so hard to find Jewish matter in any other language than Hebrew, which only few of us know well, that we in America often have to miss much that we would like to know and understand. I have tried to put Hebrew ideas into English words for American children.

How can we make the Sabbath more different, as different as possible from other days? How can we find in it that extra soul, that *neshamah yeterah*, which the Rabbis tell us should come to us then? Might it not help on each Sabbath, as well as each Jewish holiday, to learn a Jewish rhyme? How such a plan would please our parents, who are always complaining of how life draws us away from Jewish thoughts! It was this idea that prompted me to arrange these rhymes in a ring around the Jewish year. If you learn or read aloud one on each Sabbath and each *yom tov*, there will be just about enough to go around a year, even a leap year. There is at least one for every holiday, (and one for Herzl's death-day) and as you learn what each Sabbath in the year stands for—for according to the portion of the *Torah* that is read on it,

each Sabbath has a special character—you will find that there is often a rhyme to fit the Sabbath, as on *Shabbat shekalim*, *Shabbat parah*, and so on. It was my good luck, when I gathered together the rhymes that I had written during many years, to find that I could fit them around the Jewish year. I hope you will use them, in your club, in your school, in your home, in your thoughts, for that is their purpose and their only wish.

One word more: I have translated a great many of the Hebrew blessings into English rhyme, for children who do not understand Hebrew very well. What I hope you will do is to learn the blessing in English as well as in Hebrew, and to say the English before or after the Hebrew. And God bless you!

JESSIE E. SAMPTER

New York, June 16, 1919.  
Sivan 18, 5679.

