

# The Sukkah in Modern Jewish Literature and Culture

## A GREAT JEWISH BOOKS TEACHER WORKSHOP RESOURCE KIT

### Teachers' Guide

This guide accompanies resources that can be found at: <http://teachgreatjewishbooks.org/resource-kits/sukkah-modern-jewish-literature-and-culture>.

### Introduction

A sukkah is a temporary building in which Jews traditionally dwell during the holiday of Sukkot, as commanded in the book of Leviticus (23:42-5): "You shall live in booths [*sukkot*] seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths, in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I am the Lord your God." In Jewish cultures, the sukkah represents and manifests the idea of home and domestic space, while also symbolizing the danger and possibility of homelessness. It is often taken to be a symbol for the transience and fragility of Jewish existence and of life itself. This kit explores representations of the sukkah in modern Jewish literature and culture.

### Subjects

Jewish Holidays, Religion

### Reading and Background:

- Teachers may find it instructive to read more about the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. *Seasons of Our Joy* by Arthur Waskow offers a succinct overview of the holiday. Teachers may also wish to consult *Sukkot 101* from the website My Jewish Learning.
- For further exploration of the concept of the sukkah, teachers may turn to Miriam Lipis, "A Hybrid Place of Belonging: Constructing and Siting the Sukkah" in *Jewish Topographies*, ed. Julia Brauch and Anna Lipphardt (2008), pp. 27-41.
- Those interested in learning more about Moritz David Oppenheim may wish to consult Samantha Baskind and Larry Silver's book, *Jewish Art: A Modern History* (2011).
- For those wishing to learn more about Sholem Aleichem we recommend Jeremy Dauber's *The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem* (2014) or his short essay from *Pakn Treger*, "Why Read Sholem Aleichem?" They may also wish to turn to [www.sholemaleichem.org](http://www.sholemaleichem.org), a website that contains information and links to further resources on the author.

### Resources



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