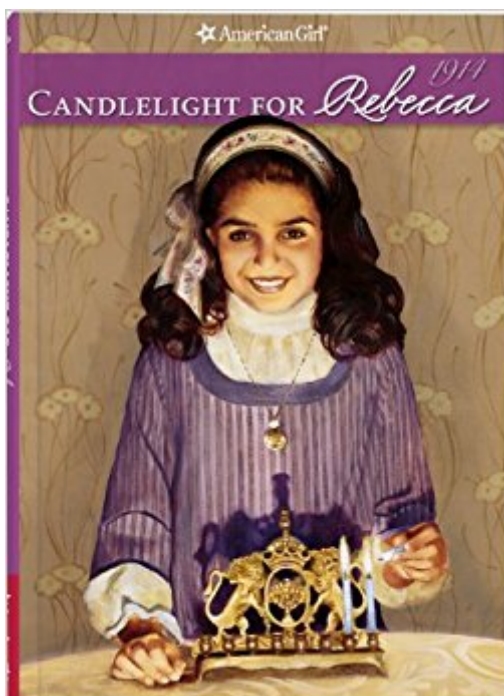


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# Candlelight For Rebecca (American Girl)



## Synopsis

Rebecca's teacher assigns the class to make Christmas decorations--but Rebecca's family is Jewish and doesn't celebrate Christmas. Her teacher tells her that Christmas is a national holiday, for all Americans to celebrate. Although her parents came from Russia, Rebecca knows she's as American as anyone else, even without celebrating Christmas. Could her teacher be wrong? If Rebecca does the project, her family is sure to be upset; if she doesn't, her teacher will be displeased. Then, on the first night of Hanukkah, Rebecca finds kindness in an unexpected place--and learns the real meaning of the holiday season.

## Book Information

Age Range: 8 and up

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Series: American Girl (Book 3)

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: American Girl (July 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159369525X

ISBN-13: 978-1593695255

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.5 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,020,205 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #309 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish](#) #4096 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#)

## Customer Reviews

Candlelight for Rebecca is the third book in Rebecca's American Girl series. Traditionally, the third book is always the holiday book, so in this installment we find Rebecca preparing to celebrate Hanukkah with her family. However, every where Rebecca looks there's Christmas decorations. Even at school, the students are creating a Christmas decoration to take home. Rebecca's teacher tells the class that despite one's religion, Christmas is an American holiday celebrated by all. In her heart, Rebecca feels this isn't right. She follows the class rules and creates the Christmas decoration, but she doesn't feel very good about it. To make matters worse, Rebecca knows her

grandmother, Bubbie, and probably her mother will not approve of her bringing home Christmas decorations. Rebecca's twin sisters were already chastised for singing Jingle Bells and wearing red ribbons with bells attached at the ends in their hair. Rebecca is torn between two cultures. I enjoyed this book and it'd be a great book for a young girl to read to learn more about the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah. The author weaves the story of Hanukkah into the story, so like with the other American Girl books, children don't even realize they're learning. In this story, Rebecca also learns that hard work and doing what's right pays off, when she helps crotchety Mr. Rizzo, her buildings janitor when he's in need of a helping hand. Mr. Rizzo comes down with a cold and Rebecca kindly offers to help him take care of his pigeons and cat. By doing these good deeds, she's able to understand and get to know a person whom she may have misjudged. I am giving Candlelight for Rebecca 4 out of 5 stars.

My Granddaughter had checked 3 of the Rebecca books out of her school library. Since she is only in Kindergarten she could only read a few chapters in the week she had them. The last week of school she cried her eyes out because she wouldn't be able to read any more about Ana. So, we got her 3 for her B'day and she was soooo excited. She LOVES these books and her parents love the good family values they portray. I haven't even seen them but she gives them 5 stars!

Great introduction to life as it would have looked for a Jewish child in early 20th century America. The familial construct is very accurate and there is even the insertion of Yiddish terminology--in small quantities--to lend an air of authenticity.

The author does an excellent job providing a short, familiar-style introduction to the world of Judaism, in particular, and the trials of immigrants and minorities in America, in general. This is, of course, shown through the specific lens of a child, which makes it wonderful as a warm, easy primer for children, who feel the effects of being different from the normative culture in America--and the concomitant pressures to assimilate--most acutely.

I sent the book to a friend. She said: I have read them. I thought they were wonderful stories. I really enjoyed them.

I recommend the American Girl series to anyone wanting to get a glimpse of an era. Rebecca is a lively girl struggling to balance her Jewish heritage and her desire to become an actress. The story

is quick and easy to read.

Wish they would keep these classic books in the be forever. Alas, everything becomes outdated and out of print eventually.

My 8 year old loves the American girl series. We only allow her to read the classic girls and this is a great edition to her set.

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