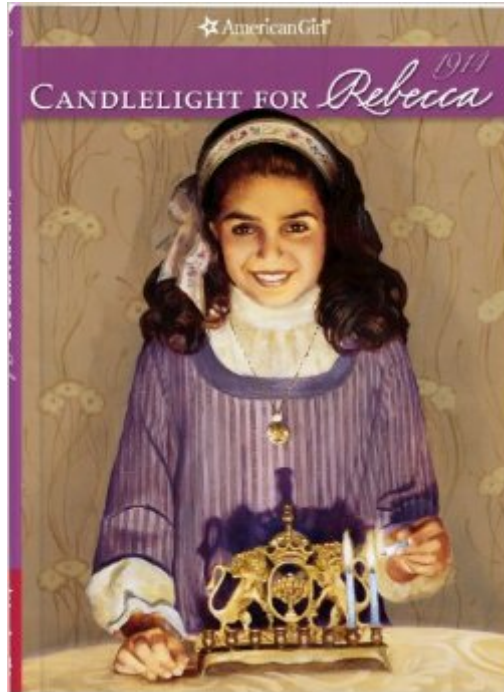


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# Candlelight For Rebecca (American Girl)



## 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: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (44 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,191,932 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #193 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish](#) #2758 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#)

## Customer Reviews

American Girl's newest doll Rebecca Rubin lives in 1914 New York. Her parents and grandmother are Jewish immigrants from Russia, but Rebecca and her four brothers and sisters were born and raised in the US. In "Meet Rebecca," we're introduced to Rebecca's family and Jewish home life. Rebecca's bubbe (grandmother) is very religious and her family observes Shabbos (the Sabbath), but her father must work on Saturday to make ends meet, which displeases her bubbe. Bubbe is also scandalized by the fact that Rebecca's cousin Max (Moyshe) is a struggling actor. Rebecca's passion is moving pictures; she adores the Perils of Pauline and longs to go to a real movie. Her

cousin Max encourages her, and Rebecca tries out a performance of her own with unpredictable results. Rebecca always feels left out; her older twin sisters Sadie and Sophie always get to light the Sabbath candles and check the challah bread. Rebecca is desperate for her own set of candlesticks to prove that she knows the Hebrew blessing and is old enough to participate, and seeks to find a way to raise enough money. There's also trouble back home in Russia, where her Uncle Jacob and his family are trapped. Their daughter Ana is very sick, and the Russian army is conscripting boys as young as twelve. Rebecca's father, a shoe salesman, struggles to raise the \$175 it will take for steamer tickets for the family. Judaism plays a central role in Rebecca's life, and the author does a good job of incorporating Jewish culture and traditions into the story (lighting the Sabbath candles, Sabbath restrictions, pushkes, mitzvahs, bar mitzvah). The immigrant experience is also central to the story, and Ellis Island is touched upon.

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