

## The Sundown Kid: A Southwestern Shabbat

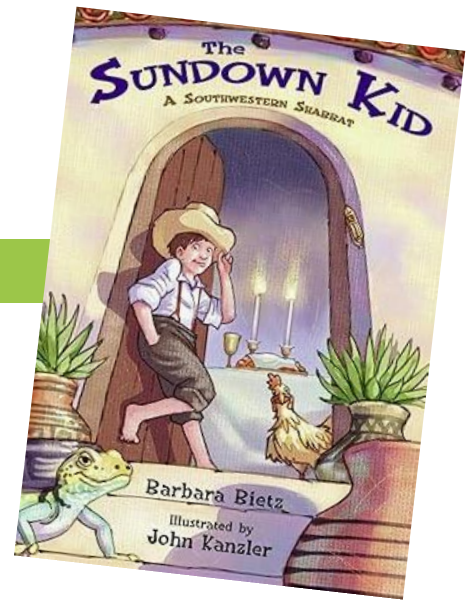
### READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Jewish culture & traditions, community

**Book Brief:** A young boy and his family move to the desert Southwest and struggle with feeling lonely as the only Jewish family in their new town. To help cure his mother's homesickness, the resourceful boy decides to invite all their new neighbors over for a warm Shabbat dinner.

**Author:**  
Barbara Bietz

**Illustrator:**  
John Kanzler



### BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, "Have you ever felt new in a new place and wondering if you would fit in?"

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, think about how the young boy reached out to others to make friends and create community."

### DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why did the young boy feel lonely in his new town?
- How did he bring his neighbors and others together to form his new community?
- What Jewish traditions did the story describe as part of shabbat? Were you familiar with these?

### AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** How did the young boy go about finding new friends and community?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Using a large poster paper, have the students make a list of words and activities that would make others feel comfortable in a new setting (school, neighborhood, town).

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.