

## **Melissa Popour**

Each month, our family receives a new book from PJ library. Getting mail is always fun, but when it's a book, it adds that extra bit of excitement. Our family is filled with avid readers, and a new book is always thrilling. It's a chance for my son and I to hang out and read together, to learn more about our faith and Israel. It's fun to ask him questions about what we're reading, and get his take on it. (Most times I am blown away at the insight of someone so young!) I have received a couple books myself. It is nice to be able to show my son that I enjoy reading books from PJ Library as well. And it also helps to instill in him that love for reading and our Judaism. It's nice to have another way to connect to Judaism and Israel. I tend to learn at least one new word with each book. I also teach 2nd grade Sunday school. When I bring in a PJ Library book that's pertinent to my class, it warms my heart to hear a student say that they love the book I'm reading because it's one they have at home. These books are a way to bring us together, especially in a world where finding those commonalities and personal interactions can be a struggle and not made to be a priority. PJ Library has created a community within our communities, and it's a great way to keep those ties strong.