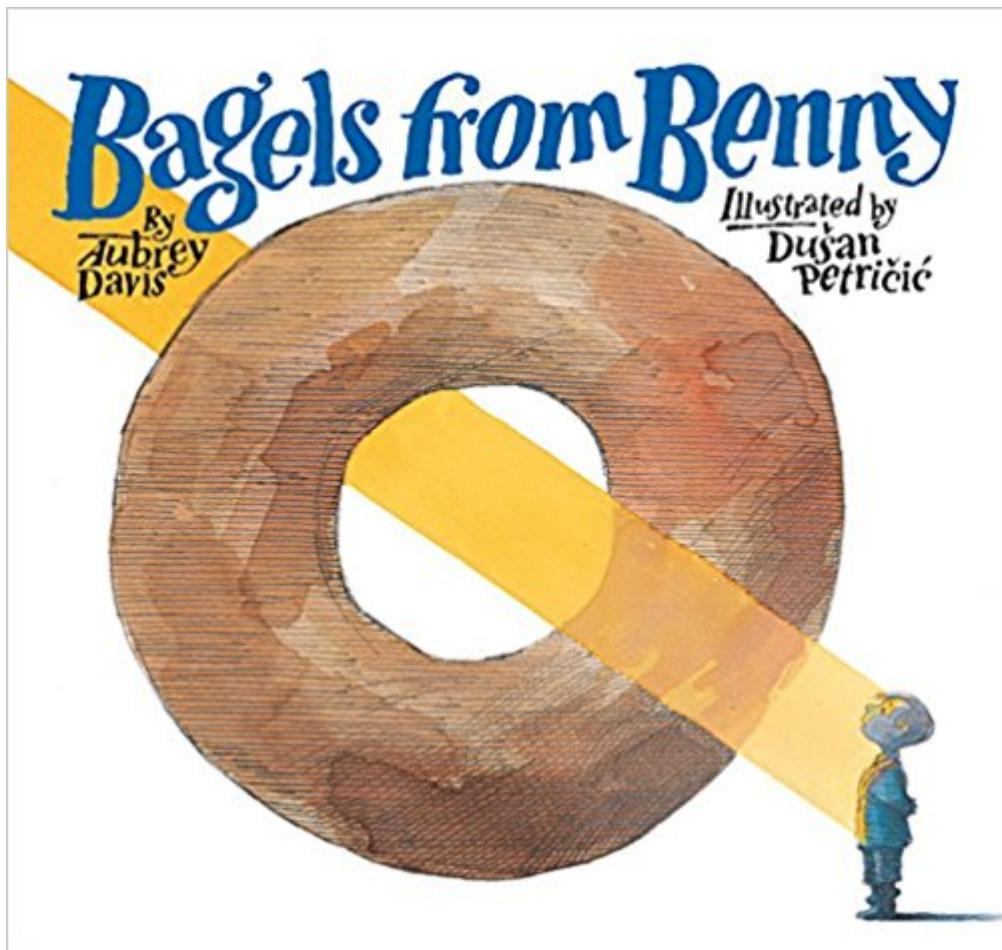


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## Bagels From Benny



## **Synopsis**

Benny loves to help out at his grandpa's bakery in the morning, and the customers love the crusty bagels with their soft insides. When Grandpa explains to Benny that God, not him, should be thanked for the wonderful bagels, Benny sets out to do just that. He decides to leave God a bagful of bagels in the synagogue at the end of each week. And each week God eats the bagels --- or so Benny thinks ... Lovingly told, *Bagels from Benny* explores the values of caring and sharing, building a strong sense of community and finding joy in giving thanks.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 330L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Benny adores helping out his Grandpa at the bagel bakery, the best in town. The young Jewish boy loves his grandfather's bagels so much, he wants to thank God for them. But how? One morning, he asks his Grandpa if he could pay him for his work with a big bag of bagels. So equipped, he heads for the synagogue, takes a deep breath, opens the big wooden cupboard that is the Holy Ark, and places the steaming bag inside: "King of the Universe," he whispered. "I brought You some bagels. I know You make them. But You never taste them, because Grandpa sells every last one." Benny keeps this up week after week until he discovers, to his dismay, that a poor man in a tattered coat has been eating his bagels, and not God. How will God know he is thanking Him if someone else is

eating the bagels? Grandpa reassures him that by making the world better, he is indeed thanking God. Dusan Petricic's expressive, cross-hatched illustrations, each one as round and warm and brown as a freshly baked bagel, illuminate all of the story's best moments with humor and emotion. This simple, touching Jewish folktale from Spain transcends Judaism as a story of human kindness and generosity of spirit that will resonate with all children. --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

PreS-Gr. 2. Benny says thank you to God, but how does he know that God hears? Why doesn't God answer? Benny works out a plan: in return for working in his grandpa's bakery, Benny asks for a bag of bagels every Friday and he leaves them for God in the Holy Ark in the synagogue. Every week the bagels disappear, and Benny is happy that God has taken them. Then Benny and Grandpa see a ragged man take the bagels from the ark and thank God for feeding him; the man says that he has found work at last, and he promises to help others. Based on an ancient Jewish folktale from Spain, the story of how a small gesture can make a difference is a moving drama of generosity and faith. The casual, cartoon-style watercolors with pencil cross-hatching show the mystery in ordinary things. The pictures, in a circular in shape in the center of each page, are as round as a bagel, as round as the Earth made by God. Hazel RochmanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This has become one of our favorite books! In the story, little Benny wants to thank God for bagels but doesn't know how. Finally he decides the best way to thank God is by giving Him some bagels to eat. So he sneaks bagels into the temple and leaves them for God. When the bagels disappear, Benny assumes God ate them, and brings more. Eventually, however, Benny discovers God isn't eating the bagels. An unemployed, presumably homeless, man has been eating them. The man believes God has been sending the bagels from heaven to help him in his time of need. Benny is upset, but his grandfather explains by feeding a hungry man, Benny has accomplished what he set out to do: thank God. The characters in the story are Jewish, but this is a story that transcends one religion. The man in the story believes God is sending the bagels and he isn't wrong. Benny may be naive, but God uses his selfless gift of bagels to help someone who really needed help. This is such a beautiful and sweet story. I cried the first time I read it. It appeals to ALL ages; and I love that I'm reading my children something that helps them learn a little more about the way God works rather than just another picture book.

This book is fantastic! I read it to my 3-year-old last night. It is captivating and with a wonderful lesson. I have to admit, I had a very time not crying. This book is a lovely way to introduce concepts of poverty, helping others and god as well. Highly recommend this book.

This is one of my new favorite books - it tells such a wonderful story and it is truly moving. Full disclosure: I have cried or nearly cried each time I have read it.

Very sweet story. Will introduce to kids when they start Hebrew school this August.

I can not say how much I enjoy this book. It moves me every time I read it to my eager children. I am only sadden when I realize the author has one other book.

A delightful story with a clear message about love and service from which any Adult or Child will benefit.

Prompt shipping and as advertised. Thank you much!!!

Purchased this book for my 5 year old...he loved it! As the Mystery Reader, I am choosing this book to read to his kindergarten class.

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