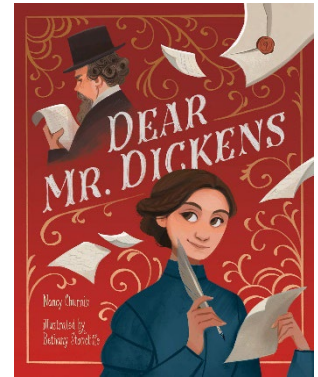


KOACH HA DIBBUR TITLES

Koach ha Dibbur, or the “power of words” encompasses both positive and negative speech. There is power in speaking up to make the world a better place, but there is also power in using words to hurt others. The Rabbi Richard B. Safran library includes books that illustrate both aspects of this core Jewish value. Check out the full collection of related resources [here](#).

Picture Books for Younger Readers

A perfect example of the positive power of words is *Dear Mr. Dickens*, by Nancy Churnin. A National Jewish Book Award winner and Sydney Taylor Honor Book, it tells the story of Eliza Davis, who took the famous author to task for his portrayal of his famous character, Fagan. *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909*, by Michelle Markel, and Linda Glaser’s *Emma’s Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty*, are other good examples of the power of speaking up. *Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain*, by Jacqueline Jules, is an example of the negative power of speech. Two picture books are based on a wonderful “feathery” folktale about gossip and poor speech: *A Sack Full of Feathers*, by Debby Waldman, and *Yettele’s Feathers*, by Joan Rothenberg.



Chapter Books for Older Children

Three titles in our juvenile biography section are excellent examples of the power of words to do good. *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*, by Marc Nobleman, is a Sydney Taylor Notable Book, telling the story of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, and their “man of steel.” Erica Silverman’s *Liberty’s Voice: The Emma Lazarus Story*, is a biography of the poet for older readers. And Kathleen Krull’s *Women Who Broke the Rules: Judy Blume*, is a short biography of a ground-breaking author. Kathy Kacer’s *The Underground Reporters* is an inspiring non-fiction title about a group of Czech children who created their own newspaper under the Nazi regime. Hillary Homzie’s *Queen of Likes*, a novel about seventh-grade Karma Cooper, explores the world of social media and the cruelty that it may involve.

Teens and Young Adults

Yes No Maybe So, by Becky Albertalli, follows two teenagers, one Jewish and one Muslim, as they work on a political campaign, another example of the power of words to affect change. Leila Sales’ *If You Don’t Have Anything Nice to Say: A Novel* is the story of seventeen-year-old Winter Halperin, who carelessly posts a racially offensive remark on social media and suffers the consequences. Marisa Kanter’s *What I Like About You*, follows a young blogger and her online friends. *The Assignment*, by Liza Wiemer, is a highly acclaimed, Sydney Taylor Notable Book, based on the true story of a controversial school project.



For Adults

Adults interested in the life of Emma Lazarus can check out Esther Schor’s National Jewish Book Award-winning biography. Another title in our biography collection is Max Frankel’s autobiography, *The Times of My Life and My Life with The Times*. *In the Trenches: Selected Speeches and Writings of an American Jewish Activist, 1979-1999* is a collection of the work of David Harris, the executive director of the American Jewish Committee. *The Tie that Binds: Conversations with Jewish Writers*, by Harold Ribalow, includes interviews with Chaim Potok and Isaac Bashevis Singer.