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## **The First Gift**





## **Book Information**

Paperback: 24 pages Publisher: Kar-Ben Publishing (September 1, 2006) Language: English ISBN-10: 1580131492 ISBN-13: 978-1580131490 Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 7.9 x 0.1 inches Shipping Weight: 4 ounces Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (1 customer review) Best Sellers Rank: #605,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #226 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #4555 in Books > Children's Books > Religions #39864 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences Age Range: 4 and up Grade Level: Preschool and up

## **Customer Reviews**

A little boy tells how he received the gift of his name by first introducing King David, then discussing how Adam named all of the living things, listing biblical names and names common in Mexico, Russia, and Israel, and then explaining how he was named after his great-grandfather. Jewish naming customs are briefly explained in an author's note. The text jumps from King David to Adam to naming customs around the world without any transitions, resulting in a narration that feels random and choppy. The illustrations lack dimension and movement, and the changes in font sizes are distracting. So while the concept of this book is appealing, it is ineffective at showing the reader how truly wonderful the gift of a name can be. Reviewed by Rachel Kamin. ANOTHER VIEW (four stars) This charming picture book is about how we are given the gifts of our names. It begins with the story of a boy named David, who is called different names by his parents and his friends, but when he grows up, his people call him "Your Majesty". To his son, Solomon, he is simply "Daddy." Gadot then explains in simple terms how names come from many origins, including the Bible, and that names vary by culture and geography. The story then shifts to the first person, and is told from the perspective of a modern boy named David, who was named after his grandfather. "The very first gift my parents gave me was my name," he says, and then he tells how he, like King David, is called many things by the people in his life who care about him. Marie Lafrance's beautiful illustrations depict both Biblical and modern scenes with bright colors and bold brush strokes. An appealing

read-aloud, this book could be used as a discussion or writing prompt to have children share the stories of their own names. A brief explanation of Jewish naming customs is included. Reviewed by Alison Kelly.

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