Theres No Such Thing As a Chanukah Bush, Sandy Goldstein by Susan Sussman

I Still Remember It Well

This perennial classic tells the tender story of a young Jewish girl at Christmastime. Robin loves Christmas trees but knows Jews do not celebrate Christmas. When a classmate tells her about a Chanukah Bush - - Its like a Christmas tree, but its for Jews -- Robin rushes home to tell her family the great news. It takes a wise grandfather to explain to Robin the difference between celebrating something you believe in, and helping friends celebrate something they believe in. Recommended by the National Conference of Christians and Jews as a ...story promoting brotherhood and understanding, Theres No Such Thing as a Chanukah Bush, Sandy Goldstein, is for every child who has ever felt different in our society. It teaches children to take pride in their own cultures and religions and to share these special things with others. Educators use both the Chanukah Bush book and film to sensitize students to other religions and to open discussions about what it feels like to be in a minority. An EMMY-award winning film by the same name is also available on AMAZON.

My Personal Review:
As a Christian who's best friend was Jewish in elementary school (and to this very day) the two of us found this story to be such an entertainment that we joke about it to this very day, some nearly twenty years later. It helped to bridge a gap in understanding about what Hanukkah means to the faithful, and even now I fondly remember feeling so special being the one Christian invited to light the candles and "tell the story of God and His glory and how precious freedom was won." Even now, I tell people I was raised by a Jewish mother too, with much pride, and look forward to the festival of lights year after year.

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