Basic Jewish Library (Books, movies and other resources)

A very incomplete list compiled by R. Halfon

Jewish Practice & Belief

Judaism For Dummies Falcon & Blatner

Jewish Literacy, Jewish Wisdom, Book of Jewish Values, etc. R. Joseph Telushkin

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Judaism, R. Benjamin Bleich

The Book of Jewish Belief, Louis Jacobs

Living Judaism, R. Wayne Dosick

To Life! R. Harold S. Kushner (+ others)

It's a Mitzvah Rabbi Brad Artson

Mourning and Mitzvah, R. Anne Brenner

To Be a Jew; To Pray as a Jew, R. Hayim Halevy Donin

It's a Mitzvah!: Step-By-Step to Jewish Living, R. Bradley Shavit Artson

The Sabbath, R. Abraham Joshua Heschel

Questions Jews Ask, R. Mordechai M. Kaplan

Holidays

The Jewish Holidays R. Michael Strassfeld Seasons of Our Joy, Waskow/Berman

Holy Books, Siddurim and "Seforim"

Siddur, Machzor, Haggadah, Mishnah

A Different Night Noam Zion (Haggadah)

History

A History of the Jewish Experience, Leo Trepp

The Story of the Jews, Stan Mack (Comic book style, but very good)

War Against the Jews, Lucy Davidowicz

A History of the Jewish People, edited by H. H. Ben-Sasson

Conversion

Living a Jewish Life, Anita Diamant, HarperCollins, 2007

Choosing a Jewish Life, Anita Diamant (Schocken Books, 1998).

Conversion to Judaism: A Guidebook, Lawrence J. Epstein (Jason Aronson, 1997).

Your People, My People, Lena Romanoff

Choosing Judaism, Lydia Kukoff

Mysticism, Kabbalah, Feminist Spirituality

God is a Verb. R. David Cooper

Paradigm Shift and First Steps to a New Jewish Spirit; R. Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

Ehveh, Rabbi Art Green

Honey from the Rock, Rabbi Larry Kushner (anything by him is great)

She Who Dwells Within Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb

Standing Again at Sinai, Judith Plaskow

Engendering Judaism, R. Rachel Adler

Torah Journeys, Rabbi Shefa Gold

The Path of Blessing, Rabbi Marcia Prager

Jewish Renewal, R. Michael Lerner

Tales of the Hasidim, Martin Buber

Zohar (Consult with Rabbi before you buy)

Philosophy

When Bad Things Happen to Good People, R. Harold Kushner A Guide for the Perplexed, Maimonides

Hebrew

Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew, EKS Publishing (+ several other books & series) (+other online programs to which you can subscribe)

Fiction, poetry, novels

The Chosen, Chaim Potok (+ My Name is Asher Lev, Book of Lights)

Exodus, Leon Uris

As a Driven Leaf, Milton Steinberg

Night, Gates of the Forest, others by Elie Weisel

Jephte's daughter, Naomi Ragen

The Rise of David Levinsky, Abraham Cahan

Badenheim 1939, Aaron Appelfeld

Goodbye Columbus, Philip Roth

God's Grace, Bernard Malamud

A Treasury of Yiddish Stories Irving Howe, Eliezer Greenberg;

Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse, edited T. Carmi

Poems of Jerusalem and Love Poems, Yehuda Amichai

The Dybbuk, Ansky

The Shawl, Cynthia Ozick

Favorite Tales of Shalom Aleichem, ed., Julius and Frances Butwin

Miriam's Tambourine: Jewish Folktales from Around the World, ed. Howard Schwartz

Diary of A Young Girl, Anne Frank (+ several plays and movies)

The Devil's Arithmetic, Jane Yolen (also a movie)

Maus Art Spiegelman. Holocaust story in comic book form.

Other

The Last Trial, Shalom Spiegel

Living Each Day, Abraham J. Twerski

This is my God, Herman Wouk

Sacred Fragments, Neil Gillman

My Life, by Golda Meir

Big Book of Jewish Humor, William Novak and Moshe Waldoks

Selected DVD's or movies online

The Jews: A People's History

Heritage: Civilization and the Jews

A Serious Man

Menashe

Denial; Resistance; Defiance; Schindler's List; Sophie's Choice; The Pianist; Life is Beautiful

The Little Traitor

Gentleman's Agreement

Operation Finale

Exodus. Cast a Giant Shadow

School Ties

I Love You. Rosa

Yentl

Walk on Water