

Resource Guide

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www.pjlibrary.org

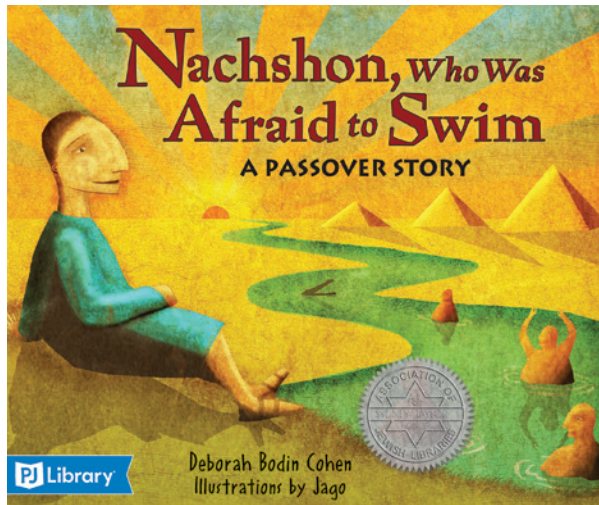
Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim

We understand that how we gather looks different these days. Whether you are coming together in person or online, PJ Library will continue to provide content to connect with your community. Inside you'll find ways to:



- Use Jewish text in everyday occurrences
- Make meaningful connections to families through Jewish values
- Enrich learning experiences for all ages





Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim

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Illustrated by: Jago

As the Israelites rush to leave Egypt after being freed from slavery, young Nachshon is the first to brave the water that must be crossed, even though he is afraid to take the plunge.

Ometz Lev

The Hebrew phrase for courage (*ometz lev*) really means “strength of heart”. Before reading this book with a group of students ask them “what does courage mean?” If you’re meeting on Zoom, they can write in the chat box or via a shared document. If you’re in person they could write on sticky notes and add to a poster board. Collect all these words to create a “Wall of Courage” in your classroom- virtual or otherwise. As you read the book together, encourage the students to note which of those elements of courage Nachshon exhibits. Now that they have read the story, are there other words they’d like to add?

Free to be you and me

PJ Library book flaps are chock full of ideas for how to explore the stories and values of the books more deeply. Check out the book flap section “**Freedom, Then and Now**” and use the questions posed there to guide a teen or adult learning experience. Layer on the idea of the difference between being free **FROM** something and being free **TO DO** something. These prompts could be a great start to a community wide storytelling event, either online or in person- perfect for Passover.

Voices and Visions

One of the other initiatives of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation is Voices & Visions- a program that pairs meaningful Jewish text with artwork in a poster series. One of the posters features a quote from Louis Brandeis: “Most of the things worth doing in the world were declared impossible before they were done.” What a perfect sentiment to align with the story of Nachshon. Use this beautiful artwork, easily shared virtually, and the accompanying Conversation Guide to explore this idea with your community.
www.pjfor.me/brandeis

#courage

Families in your community are participating in acts of courage every day; from small acts like trying a new food for the first time to bigger things like auditioning for the school play. Create a social media campaign around the theme of courage, using your organization’s name and the word courage or *ometz lev* (i.e., #TempleShalomCourage). Ask people to share the courageous acts they and their family members are doing every day, or other acts of *ometz lev* they are seeing in the community. They can take pictures or create another graphic and tag it with your hashtag.

For all things Passover:
www.pjlibrary.org/passover

Voices & Visions:
www.voices-visions.org