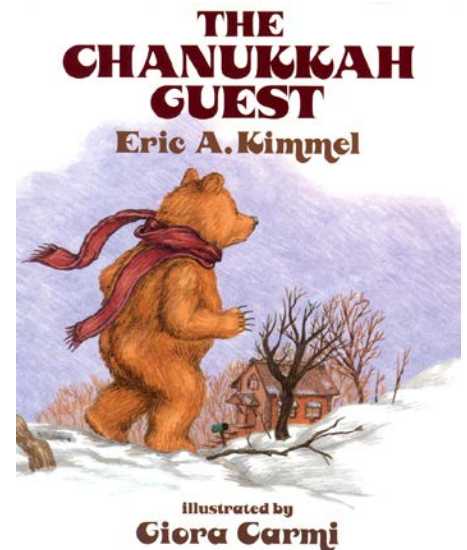


The Chanukkah Guest

By Eric Kimmel

Program Focus

Age group: Ages 2-6
 Time frame: 45 minutes
 Central value: Welcoming guests (*Hachnasat Orchim*)



Synopsis

Although Bubba Brayna is almost blind and deaf, she makes the best potato latkes in the village. On the first night of Chanukkah, she cooks a special batch for the rabbi, who is coming to visit her. However, Old Bear, teased from hibernation by the smell of latkes, comes to Bubba Brayna's cottage. When she hears a thumping at the door, she lets in her guest. Only later does she realize she has served a bear her delicious latkes! *The Chanukkah Guest* highlights holiday values such as welcoming guests (*Hachnasat Orchim*), bringing light into the darkness with the Menorah, and demonstrating Chanukkah customs and traditions.

Goals

- Highlight and connect the major themes of this book to the celebration of Chanukah
- Involve families in group singing and activities that will enliven their Chanukah celebrations at home and with friends

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Plan in advance

Prepare Puppet Show

Advanced Preparations

1. Rehearse the puppet show or play. You will need to plan this at least one week in advance. Xerox the script for the actors or puppeteers. Assign one person to be the Director (preferably a teacher).
2. Plan for at least two rehearsals. Give the scripts to the actors in advance and ask them to highlight and read over their parts so that they are familiar with the script before the first rehearsal.
3. Decide puppets or people in the performance and acquire the needed costumes or puppets, or a combination of both.
4. Prepare song sheets for the sing-along. The songs are included with this lesson plan. Make enough copies for families to take them home with them.

Set up the Area

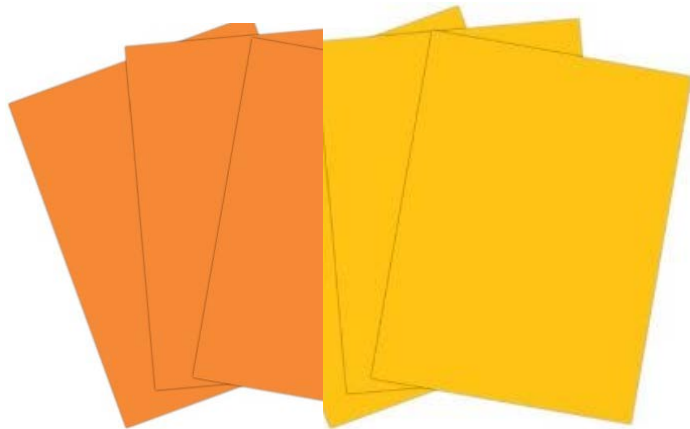
Advanced Preparations

1. Cover a chalkboard or large bulletin board with black or dark-colored construction paper.
2. Set up an art table with yellow and orange paper, scissors, crayons, markers, gold and silver glitter, etc.
3. Make sample paper “flames” and attach them to the dark board.

Prepare Bright Lights Activity

Materials

- Black construction paper or poster board
- Yellow and orange construction paper
- Scissors
- Washable markers
- Tape or glue sticks



Introduce with activities

As Families Arrive

Welcome each child and parent. Have them sign in and make nametags. Give each family a song sheet. Invite them to visit the art table for a fun activity.

Bright Lights Activity

Directions

1. Have a volunteer at the art table welcome each family and ask each member to cut out a “flame” from the yellow or orange paper (with parent or caregiver’s help, as needed).
2. On each flame, have them write or draw something that brings light into their lives. This could be something literal (stars, candles), or something more abstract that “brightens” their lives (a hobby they enjoy, a personality trait they like about themselves, a person they love, etc.)
3. Have each person tape or glue the flame to the black paper. You might have each family make their own “menorah” out of their flames, or create your own design for how the flames should be attached.



Adaptations for Group Size and Age

For larger groups and younger children, have flames pre-cut and have families decorate their flames.

Introduce the Story

1. Invite all the children and adults to join you at the designated stage area. Show them the book and explain that they will be exploring the story in a special way with puppets and singing!
2. Teach the songs- Hand out song sheets (attached) or have the words written on a board. Emphasize that they will be asked to participate when the songs are sung during the performance!

THE CHANUKAH BLESSINGS
OH CHANUKAH
THE DREIDEL SONG
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

3. Bring everyone’s attention back to the dark board with the flames. Speak about Chanukah and how it happens at the darkest time of the year; how we celebrate the light of the menorah and the light in our lives. Explain that since Chanukah occurs during the coldest, darkest time of the year, it is a special time for friends and family to gather and light candles, eat, play and sing together. These are activities that help to warm us and feel closer to each other.

Read the play

See the attached script.

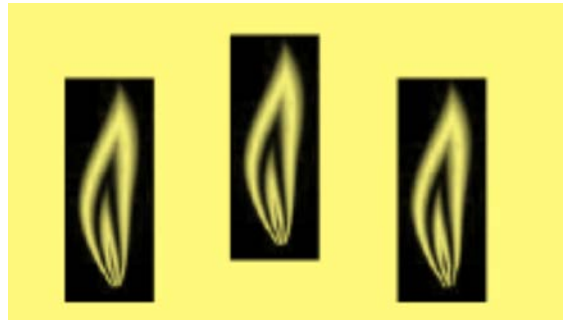
Follow Up activities and resources

After the play is over, end by singing “This Little Light of Mine” to reinforce the concept of the qualities in ourselves that brighten the lives of others.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine (repeat 3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Or katan sheli
Tein lo l'ha-ir (repeat 3x)
Tein lo, tein lo l'ha-ir!



Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

Following the program, try to e-mail each family, thanking them for coming. Invite families to take home their song sheets. Remind them to sing the blessings and songs each night of Chanukah as they light their candles. Suggest that as they sit and watch the candles burn to remind one another of the light that they bring into their lives each day.

The Chanukkah Guest

Characters

You could have these roles played by people, puppets, or a combination of the two:

NARRATOR

BEAR

BUBBA BRAYNA

RABBI (You might want to have the synagogue's Rabbi or the principal of the school take this part).

Props

They can be mimed but it would be a good idea to have a Menorah for the candle lighting. An electric or battery-operated Menorah that can be turned on and off would be ideal.

Setting

The woods and Bubba Brayne's house, specifically her kitchen. These can simply be different areas of the stage. Most of the action will take place in the kitchen. Keep scenery minimal. Chairs and table should be set up in kitchen. Actors or puppets can mime using the oven and countertops for cooking.

Rehearsal

This play will require some simple blocking, whether you are acting it out or doing it as a puppet show. Plan at least 2-3 rehearsals and give the scripts to the actors ahead of time so they can highlight and familiarize themselves with their lines.

The Script

(BEAR acts out the motions while the NARRATOR reads).

NARRATOR: Old bear roused himself from his winter sleep. He let out a big yawn and stretched. He poked his nose outside his den. A soft blanket of snow covered the ground. Old bear wrinkled his nose and sniffed. What was that delicious smell? *(BEAR sniffs wildly)* It smelled like something to eat, which reminded Old Bear that it had been months since he had eaten anything. Old Bear's empty stomach rumbled. He shook himself all over, and then lumbered out of his den to follow the delicious smell. *(BEAR walks over to BUBBA BRAYNA'S HOUSE).*

(BUBBA BRAYNA is in her kitchen making latkes.)

BUBBA BRAYNA: Hello everyone! I am Bubba Brayna. I am 97 years old. That's very, very old! I don't see so well any more. And I can't hear too well either. But there is one thing I still do better than anyone else in my village. I make the best potato latkes! Yup! The best! Everyone comes from miles away- hiking through the woods to my tiny little house, just to taste my delicious latkes! I have just made a huge batch of latkes. Do you know why? Tonight is the first night of Hanukah and I have a very special visitor coming. Do you know who it is? The Rabbi! Yes, he is coming to my house to eat my delicious latkes! I am so excited! He'll be here soon so I need to get everything ready.

(BUBBA BRAYNA hums "Oh Chanukah" to herself as she continues to cook.)

(BEAR knocks on the door.)

BUBBA BRAYNA: Oh! My guest must be early! I cannot seem to find the door! Oh here it is! *(Enter BEAR).* Why, hello, Rabbi! How nice to see you!

BEAR: GRRRRR!

BUBBA BRAYNA: And happy Chanukah to you too! Please come in! I'll take your coat. *(Tries to grab his fur)* My how thick it is! It must be very cold outside! *(Tugs again at his fur).*

BEAR: GRRRRR!

BUBBA BRAYNA: Oh, you prefer to leave your coat on? Suit yourself! It is a bit chilly in here. Come into the kitchen. I've set a table for a lovely Hanukah evening. *(They walk into the kitchen)*

NARRATOR: Old Bear followed Bubba Brayna into the kitchen. The delicious smells made his nose twitch!

BEAR: Grrrr. Grrrrr!!! GRRRRRRR!!!!

BUBBA BRAYNA: Thank you, Rabbi. How kind of you to say that. The latkes will taste even better than they smell!

(BEAR stumbles to the oven and tries to get to the latkes)

BUBBA BRAYNA: Rabbi! I'm surprised at you! You know we don't eat until we light the menorah!

BEAR: Grrrrr!

BUBBA BRAYNA: That's all right. I know you were teasing. I'll light the candles. Will you say the blessings?

BEAR: Grrrr..

BUBBA BRAYNA: *(To the AUDIENCE)* And will YOU all help us sing the Hanukah blessings?

(BUBBA BRAYNA lights the candles and leads everyone in singing the blessings. When they are finished, BEAR "growls" the blessings.)

**BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHEINU MELECH HA-OLAM
ASHER KID'SHANU B'MITSVOTAV, V'TSIVANU L'HADLIK
NEYR SHEL CHANUKAH.**

**BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHEINU MELECH HA-OLAM,
SHE-ASA NISIM LA-AVOTEYNU BAYAMIM HA-HEYM
BAZ'MAN HAZEH.**

*(Include the following if performing on or before the first night of
Chanukah)*

**BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHEYNU MELECH HA-OLAM
SHEHECHEYANU V'KIY'MANU
V'HIGIYANU LAZ'MAN HAZEH.**

BEAR: (singing) GRRRRRRR....RRRUMPH...GRRRR...

BUBBA BRAYNA: Amen! Oh Rabbi, you sing the blessings so
beautifully!

(BUBBA BRAYNA and BEAR sit down at the table)

*(***If time is a factor and you would like to do a shortened version of
the play, you may opt to skip the dreidel scene and pick up with the
eating of the latkes, indicated by the ***)*

BUBBA BRAYNA: Let's play dreidel. I have some nuts we can play
with.

BEAR: GRRR!!!! *(Mimes shoving a handful of nuts in his mouth).*

BUBBA BRAYNA: Rabbi! You won't have any nuts for the game if
you eat them all!

BEAR: RRRRRRrrrrrrr!

BUBBA BRAYNA: Don't worry. I have more nuts if you need them.

(They mime playing dreidel while NARRATOR reads)

NARRATOR: Bubba Brayna gave the dreidel a spin. Old Bear sniffed at the little top as it whirled around. It stopped on the letter “nun,” which meant that he got nothing. When Bubba Brayna spun the dreidel, it stopped on the letter “gimel”.

BUBBA BRAYNA: I win!

BEAR: GRRRRR!

BUBBA BRAYNA: Don't be angry, Rabbi. It's only a game. Maybe you would feel better if we sang a little song. (To the AUDIENCE) Remember the dreidel song, everyone?

*I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL
I MADE IT OUT OF CLAY
AND WHEN IT'S DRY AND READY
OH DREIDEL I SHALL PLAY.*

*OH DREIDEL DREIDEL DREIDEL
I MADE IT OUT OF CLAY
AND WHEN IT'S DRY AND READY
OH DREIDEL I SHALL PLAY.*

*MY DREIDEL'S ALWAYS PLAYFUL
IT LOVES TO DANCE AND SPIN
OH HAPPY GAME OF DREIDEL
COME PLAY NOW LET'S BEGIN!*

*OH DREIDEL DREIDEL DREIDEL
I MADE IT OUT OF CLAY
AND WHEN IT'S DRY AND READY
OH DREIDEL I SHALL PLAY!*

Okay, now it's time for dinner!

*****(*BUBBA BRAYNA MIMES TAKING OUT A PLATTER OF LATKES. BEAR'S NOSE TWITCHES AS SHE SETS THEM ON THE TABLE.*)

BUBBA BRAYNA: Do you prefer your latkes with sour cream or jam?

BEAR: GRRRRRR!

BUBBA BRAYNA: Jam, I thought so.

(BEAR gobbles down latkes)

BUBBA BRAYNA: My my, Rabbi! You should use a fork! You have jam all over your beard! *(She wipes his face with a napkin).* Rabbi, you eat just like a bear!

BEAR: GRRRRRRROAR!!!!!!..... *(BEAR continues to eat until all the latkes are gone.)*

BUBBA BRAYNA: Oh my, Rabbi! You ARE as hungry as a bear! You've eaten all of my latkes!

(BEAR stretches and yawns.)

BUBBA BRAYNA: Oh Rabbi, you're sleepy. Who wouldn't be after such a meal? The latkes are gone. It's time to go home. But before you leave, I have a Chanukah present for you. *(She takes out a scarf and wraps it around BEAR'S neck.)* This scarf will keep you warm on the coldest nights. I knitted it myself.

BEAR: *(Hugs BUBBA BRAYNA and leaves, growling with pleasure.)*

BEAR: GRUMPH....RRRRR...RRRRUMPH....

BUBBA BRAYNA: Oh Rabbi! At my age! You make me blush! Goodnight to you! And Happy Hanukah! *(She shuts the door and goes to the kitchen to clean up.)*

(RABBI knocks at the door.)

BUBBA BRAYNA: I wonder who that is?? I'm not expecting any more visitors tonight! *(Answers the door.)*

(RABBI enters)

RABBI: Shalom, Bubba Brayna! Happy Hanukah! *(RABBI points to the AUDIENCE).* I've invited all of my friends and neighbors to your house for your delicious latkes! I hope you don't mind!

BUBBA BRAYNA: But Rabbi, you already came by and ate all of my latkes!

RABBI: Bubba Brayna, don't you recognize me? I couldn't have eaten your latkes! I've been at the synagogue all day!
(BUBBA BRAYNA scratches her head.)

BUBBA BRAYNA: Something strange is happening here, Rabbi. I think there is an imposter going around who looks just like you. He even talks like you. And he has your beard!

RABBI: *(Looks at the floor.)* Bubba Brayna, I think I have found a clue to this dilemma. Do you see what I see on your floor?

BUBBA BRAYNA: No, Rabbi. Don't you remember? I'm 97 years old. I can hardly see anything very clearly anymore.

RABBI: Well, here on your floor is a set of footprints. But these footprints are far too big to belong to a person. They are the footprints of a bear. A very hungry bear! Bubba Brayna, I think your visitor was a bear. Not me!

BUBBA BRAYNA: A bear? And I thought it was you! *(Laughs.)* That was a very clever bear...or a very foolish Bubba Brayna. Ah well, I hope the bear has a happy Hanukah! I had a happy Hanukah. And I hope you will too!

(BUBBA BRAYNA and RABBI lead the AUDIENCE in singing “Oh Chanukah”)

OH CHANUKAH OH CHANUKAH
COME LIGHT THE MENORAH
LET'S HAVE A PARTY
WE'LL ALL DANCE THE HORA
GATHER ROUND THE TABLE WE'LL GIVE YOU A TREAT
SIVIVON TO PLAY WITH AND LATKES TO EAT
AND WHILE WE ARE PLAYING
THE CANDLES ARE BURNING LOW
ONE FOR EACH NIGHT
THEY SHED A SWEET LIGHT
TO REMIND US OF DAYS LONG AGO!
ONE FOR EACH NIGHT THEY SHED A SWEET LIGHT
TO REMIND US OF DAYS LONG AGO!



Hannukah Songs

The Dreidl Song

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
and when it's dry and ready
oh dreidel I shall play.

Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel
I made it out of clay
and when it's dry and ready
oh dreidel I shall play.

My dreidel's always playful
it loves to dance and spin
Oh happy game of dreidel
come play now let's begin!

Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel
I made it out of clay
and when it's dry and ready
oh dreidel I shall play!



Oh Chanukah

Oh Chanukah Oh Chanukah
come light the menorah.
Let's have a party
we'll all dance the hora

Gather round the table we'll give you a treat
sivon to play with and latkes to eat.
And while we are playing
the candles are burning low.
One for each night they shed a sweet light
to remind us of days long ago!

One for each night they shed a sweet light
to remind us of days long ago!

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine (repeat 3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Or katan sheli
tein lo l'ha-ir (repeat 3x)
tein lo, tein lo l'ha-ir!



Chanukkah Blessings



Hadleikat Neiroi—The Blessing Over Candles:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה.

*Baruch Ata Adonai, Elohaynu Melech HaOlam
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu
l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, Ruler of the world,
who makes us holy with your commandments and commands us
to light the Chanukah candles.



Thanking God for the Miracles of Chanukah:

This blessing is traditionally said every night
immediately following the above candle blessing
and lighting.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שָׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ (וּלְאַמּוֹתֵינוּ),
בְּיָמֵים הָהֵם, בְּזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, Ruler of the world, that made
miracles for our ancestors in their days and in our days too.

*Baruch Ata Adonai, Elohaynu Melech HaOlam,
she-a-sah ni-sim la-avoteinu, (u-le-im-o-teinu),
ba-yamim, ha-heyim, ba-z'man ha-zeh.*

Thanking God for Making it to this Season:

The Shehechyanu prayer is said anytime we do something or eat
something new for the first time in a year. So, the first night of
Chanukah is the perfect time for offering thanks for the
freedoms and opportunities in our lives.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּינוּ לְזְמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch ata Adonai, Elohaynu Melech HaOlam...
She-he-chi-yanu v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-ya-nu la-z'man he-zeh.*

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, Ruler of the world, for
renewing our existence and bringing us to this time.

