

Read the PJ Library Book

Rise & Shine, A Challah-Day Tale (3's)

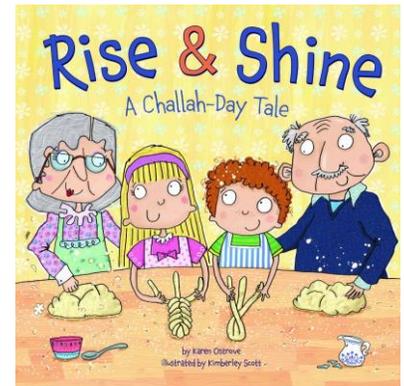
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Synopsis

Sammy and Sophie are playing in the attic when they find a piece of paper with what they interpret to be ancient writing. They are sure Grandma Gert will know what it is, so off they go to the senior center for a visit with Grandma and friends. Grandma identifies the writing as Yiddish – and it's a recipe. With a little mixing and measuring, they create delicious challah and a delightful experience for all.



Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Challah - *Cha-lah* - חלה

Honoring our elders - *Ki-bud ze-kei-nim* - כבוד זקנים

Yiddish culture and language

Challah. Challah is an egg-rich bread that many Jewish families eat on Shabbat and other holidays. On Shabbat, traditional Jews use two *challot* (plural). When the Children of Israel trekked through the desert after the Exodus from Egypt, they awoke each morning to food in the form of manna on the ground. Only on Fridays were they able to take more than one day's supply – a double portion to last through Shabbat. Two challot are a reminder of this. The Torah first describes the taste of manna as “cake fried with honey” (Exodus 16:31) and later as “dough kneaded with oil.” (Numbers 11:8) Challah often incorporates both descriptions – it is slightly sweet and made with oil. The Talmud, a book of Jewish law and custom, suggests manna tasted like whatever the person who collected it was thinking. Challah is usually braided, but on the Jewish New Year - Rosh Hashanah, challah is round to signify the cycle of life.



Honoring our elders – Kibud Z'keimim. Jewish tradition teaches that after a long life filled with a myriad of experiences, our elders have much to impart to us. *Pirkei Avot*, the Ethics of Our Ancestors, says that “a person who learns from the old is compared to one who eats ripe grapes and drinks wine that is aged.” (*Pirkei Avot* 4:26)



Yiddish language and culture. Yiddish is a beautifully descriptive and colorful language. Yiddish combines German and Hebrew. It was the primary language spoken by Eastern and Central European Jews beginning in the 10th century. Some scholars say it developed as a substitute for Hebrew, which was considered a Biblical and therefore holy language.

Others say it was merely the attempt of newly settled Mediterranean Jews to speak the local German dialect. They wrote these new words using Hebrew letters with which they were familiar, as some people today write transliterated Hebrew using English letters. Modern English language has adopted several fun Yiddish words such as *schlep* (to drag or carry) and *meshuga* (crazy). The rich Yiddish culture incorporates beautiful poetry, acerbic humor, and vivid theatrical productions.

Imagine your community living these Jewish values.

**How would your classroom change?
How will families be involved?**

In the Classroom / Centers

- ✧ **Challah:** Practice braiding with play dough in your **art center**. You might also try braiding with stuffed stockings (vary the color of the strands to make it easier) in your **dramatic play or manipulatives area**. (Photo courtesy of UOS Montessori School in Houston, TX)
- ✧ **Challah:** Baking challah is a natural **science experiment**, paying particular attention to the yeast and how the dough rises. It is also an exercise in measuring time. In the time it takes for our dough to rise, how many times can we...
- ✧ **Honoring our elders:** Attach photos of family members to the blocks in your **block corner**. Make sure there are plenty of pictures of older family members, so they are included in children’s play.
- ✧ **Honoring our elders:** Invite seniors to your classroom to read a book, tell a story, or teach a skill. Compile a book for your **library** which includes the photos of your visitors and what the children learned from each guest.
- ✧ **Yiddish:** Read the PJ Library book *Nosh, Schlep, Shluf* at **morning meeting** and see how many Yiddish words your students recognize. Maybe a Yiddish-speaker will join your classroom help with authentic pronunciation.
- ✧ **Yiddish:** Learn a **song** with Yiddish words in it. Check out this simple and fun tune on our PJ Library video blog. <http://pjlibrary.org/pj-blog/index.php/archives/3096/grandparents-yiddish-the-shabbat-puppy/>



Bridging Home and School

What languages do you speak?

The seniors in this book delight in sharing their language and culture with Sophie and Sammy. What languages do the families of your students speak?

Make someone happy

Grumpy Old Ned changes his facial expressions throughout the book until he breaks out into a smile. Whose day will you brighten with phone calls, cards, or visits? Invite the families of your students to share the names of seniors who might appreciate child-made gifts or calls. Have a senior celebration in class.



Family Engagement at Home

A little dough goes a long way

Send home some challah dough for baking. The delicious aroma and taste of fresh baked challah are sure to fill the homes and hearts of your students' families. Perhaps families will share a "challah-day tale" with your class.

Share your stories and experiences with everyone.

What happened?

How can the learning go deeper?

Tell us a story... of children interacting with their elders

How can you make learning from our elders an ongoing process in the classroom? Keep a journal of the children's interactions with seniors. Read the pages to the children on a regular basis.

For example: *Our class went to visit the seniors playing Mah Jongg today. It is like a card game that uses tiles. Mrs. Schwartz let us touch the smooth tiles. Each tile had a number and shapes on it. Mrs. Schwartz was so happy to take a break and talk to us. She doesn't get to see her grandchildren nearly enough – they live far away. She sang us a funny song. We will be your pretend grandchildren any time, Mrs. Schwartz!* [Picture of children with Mrs. Schwartz.]

More resources and websites for inspiration

Respecting grandparents <http://www.kveller.com/preschooler/behavior-and-discipline/respecting-grandparents.shtml>

How many way can you use challah in a recipe? <http://www.kveller.com/activities/food/beyond-french-toast.shtml>

All things Yiddish <http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/>

Honor Our Elders on Pinterest <http://www.pinterest.com/pjgts/honoring-our-elders-books-and-activities/>

