



DREIDEL DAY

Written and Illustrated by Amalia Hoffman

During Hanukkah, every day is a dreidel day! Little ones will love counting along with the kitty in this book as the holiday progresses from 1 to 8.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, commemorates a struggle for religious freedom that took place in current-day Israel in the second century BCE. A small group of Jews known as the Maccabees miraculously triumphed over the much larger Syrian-Greek army. When the battle was over, the Jews discovered the Holy Temple had been ransacked. They rededicated the Temple (*hanukkah* means “dedication” in Hebrew), lighting the ritual lamp with just enough oil to last one day. The oil lasted eight days, enough time to procure *more* oil – another miracle!

The cat in this book is spinning, bouncing, and tumbling just like a *dreidel*, the four-sided top that stars in the classic Hanukkah game of the same name. A dreidel’s Hebrew letters – *nun*, *gimel*, *hay*, and *shin* – stand for the Hebrew phrase *nes gadol haya sham* (“a great miracle happened there”), a reference to the miracles of Hanukkah that occurred so long ago. The dreidel game isn’t for cats (or for babies and toddlers, for that matter!) but everyone can have fun imitating the movements and actions of the silly kitty in this book. Happy Hanukkah!