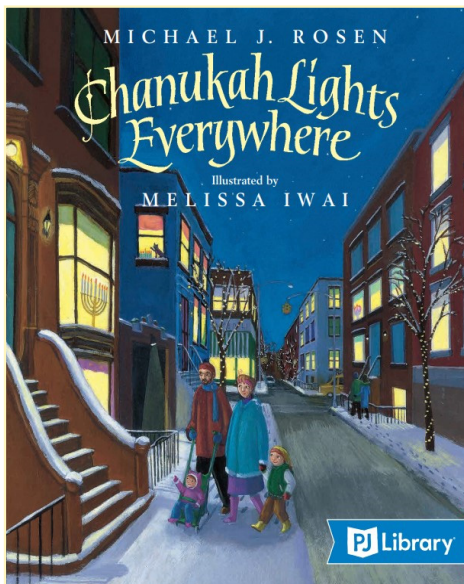


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{ **Where do you find light?** }

Sharing the Light

For eight nights, Jews gather with family and friends to light the Chanukah menorah. However, tradition suggests we shouldn't just keep this light between us, but that we should put it near a window to bring more light into the world. This is called "publicizing the miracle" (pirsum hanes in Hebrew). In Israel, some families "publicize the miracle" by lighting a menorah (called a hanukkiah in Hebrew) in glass boxes outside their homes where passersby can easily see them but they are still out of the wind and rain. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/chanukahlightseverywhere.

HANDS ON!

Hunt for the Light

What kinds of light can you find tonight in your house? Practice looking and finding sources of light. It might be fun to turn down some of the lights at home so others stand out.

- Candles
- Menorah
- Lamp
- Moon
- Car Headlights
- Porch Light
- Light of the stove/oven
- The light of a neighbor's window
- Streetlight
- Stars
- Car tail lights

Now, can you find something shiny, like a...
silver coin
piece of gelt

Now, what if you look out the window? Can you find more lights? What if you bundle up and go outside for a walk? What else can you find?

Menorah

This story features many kinds of light—whether produced by a candle flame, electric bulb, or celestial body. One of the oldest ways to produce light is by floating a wick in oil. That is how the menorah in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem worked—it held seven small cups that could be filled with olive oil. Oil lasts longer than candles and, according to the rabbis, olive oil produced the brightest and clearest light, making it the best oil to use in the Temple. It certainly doesn't hurt that olive trees are everywhere in Israel!

Rise and Shine

Placing menorahs in the window is one way we share our light. Another is when we let shine the unique light within each of us. Each person is a source of light, our soul like a spark or small flame that radiates goodness, like a candle in a menorah. As the Baal Shem Tov, founder of the Hasidic movement, said: "From every human being, there rises a light." Hasidic tradition teaches that the Hebrew word hashemen, "oil," has the same Hebrew letters as neshamah, "soul." Just as the oil is the hidden essence of the olive, the soul is the hidden essence of the person, and both, perhaps very surprisingly, can be powerful sources of light.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

IN this story, there are so many lights. How many can you find on these pages? Which do you find the most beautiful?

PEOPLE light up our life, too. Who comes to visit you this time of year?

HOW do you make your guests feel welcome?