

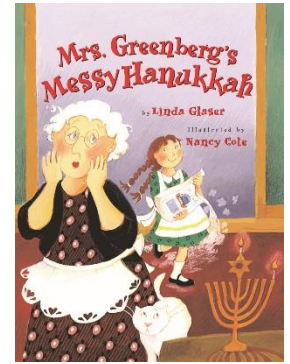
Read the PJ Library Book

Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah (3s)

By Linda Glaser

Illustrated by Nancy Cote

Published by Albert Whitman and Company



Synopsis

Rachel wondered how it could possibly feel like Hanukkah when her parents were too busy to make latkes and decorate. Rachel had an idea - why not visit her neighbor, Mrs. Greenberg, and celebrate with her? Rachel invited herself into Mrs. Greenberg's home and asked her to make latkes. Rachel made a terrible mess, but Mrs. Greenberg only exclaimed, "What's a little mess between friends?" Through working, cleaning, and eating together, a friendship was forged across generations. "Now *this* feels like Hanukkah!"

Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Friendship - *cha-ve-rut* - חֵבְרוּת -or- *ye-di-dut* - יְדִידוּת

Honoring our elders - *Ki-bud ze-kei-nim* - כְּבוֹד זְקֵנִים

Introducing the value of friendship *Chaverut/yedidut*

From Jewish teachings

There are two words for friendship in modern Hebrew. *Chaverut* suggests a close friendship, while *yedidut* is used when a friendship is newly developing.

Ecclesiastes wrote, "Two are better than one ... for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow" (4:9). Jewish tradition stresses the value of friendship and highlights the importance of "give and take" in our relationships. We need to be able to lean on our friends, both literally and figuratively.

For the teacher

- When have you relied on a friend?
- It can be complicated to navigate relationships that blur the lines between friend, colleague, and acquaintance. How do you make those distinctions?
- How would you define the relationships in the classroom? Can we really call everyone in our classroom community a friend?

Questions for children

- What are some things that you like to do with a friend that you can't do by yourself?
- When you see a friend, how do you say hello?
- What are some ways we can make sure that our friends know we care about them?



Introducing the value of honoring elders
Kibud z'keinim

From Jewish teachings

The Torah teaches us to “rise in the presence of the gray-haired, and honor the elderly” (*Leviticus* 19:32). According to the Talmud, a collection of rabbinic commentaries, the Hebrew word for elderly, **zakein** is an acronym that stands for “**zeh shekaneh [chachma]**” meaning “this person has acquired [wisdom].” We honor them not just because of age, but because of the wisdom gained through life experience.

For the teacher

- Do you have a relationship with someone who is much older or much younger than you are?
- What are some ways that you have honored an elder in your life?
- Does your ethnic or cultural background have special traditions regarding older people?
- How does your school and/or classroom currently connect with the elderly in your community? What else might you do to create those connections?

Questions for children

- Do you have special people in your life who are a lot older than you?
- What are some ways that we could show older people how important they are to us?
- What are some things an older person might be able to help us with?



Imagine your community living these Jewish values.

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

In the Classroom / Centers



- ☆ **Friendship/chaverut:** Make a classroom photo album that includes the name and photos of all of the children, teachers, aides, and class pets. This gives children a foundation of who is who in your classroom community. Add photos throughout the year of children working together, to help them see their friendships develop as they move from parallel play to collaborative play.

☆ **Friendship/chaverut:** Ask children what activities are more fun to do with friends, and create opportunities to explore those activities. Examples might include large puzzles, murals, or building tall towers.

☆ **Honoring the elderly/kibud z'keinim:** Invite an older person from your community, such as a grandparent or senior club member, to read or tell stories to the children. Could this become an ongoing relationship for your classroom? Perhaps you can “share” this friend with another classroom.

☆ **Honoring the elderly/kibud z'keinim:** Is there a senior center in your community? Consider starting a virtual relationship with the residents. Record a video of the children in your class singing happy songs or set up a Skype time for singing together.



Engage the families in your community

How can you involve families and deepen home-school relationships?



Playdates for all

You can help the children in your class build their budding friendships outside of the classroom by helping to facilitate play dates with other families. Be sure to send a note home to families when you notice that two children particularly enjoy playing together.

Grand-friends' Shabbat

Honor some of the special older friends and relatives in your lives during your weekly Shabbat service. Find ways to show how much they are cared for, and the ways we can show respect.

At Home

See below for a mini-newsletter about this book. Cut on the dotted line to send directly to parents, or copy any part for your website or electronic communication with families.

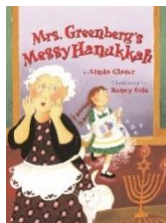


READ the PJ Library book

Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah

Written by Linda Glaser
Illustrated by Nancy Cote

While her parents are busy with errands, Rachel visits her elderly neighbor Mrs. Greenberg and convinces her to make latkes. Will this loving, intergenerational friendship be able to survive the mess that Rachel creates as these two friends cook together?



DISCUSS Jewish values

Friendship/chaverut

Friendships require effort and hard work, but the benefits of friendship are immense.

- Share (at least) one good thing that has happened as a result of a meaningful friendship.

Honoring elders/Kibud zekeinim

Judaism asks that we respect the wisdom that our elders have acquired through their life experiences.

- What is one new way that we can let an older person know how important they are to us?

DO fun stuff at home



Friendship Notes

Spend time together as a family decorating and writing thank-you notes to friends. Consider thanking a friend for a recent kindness, or share a memory, or say, "I love you."

MORE resources

Friendship skills: <http://bit.ly/friendship-skills>

PJ books about friends: <http://bit.ly/PJ-books-friends>

Honoring elders: <http://bit.ly/PJ-books-elders>

Games for three-year olds to play with anyone:
<http://bit.ly/indoor-boredom-busters>