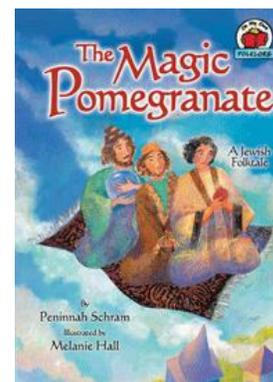


The Magic Pomegranate, a Jewish Folktale

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On one foot: Three brothers set out on separate expeditions, each seeking an unusual gift to bring back to the others. As in many folktales, the characters learn important lessons along the way. Jewish folklore developed as a way to transmit important values. There are common themes in these folktales, such as appreciating loved ones, and realizing what's most important in life may not be material possessions.

Highlighted Jewish Values:

Cooperation

שְׂתוּף פְּעוּלָה
Shee-tuf pe'u-lah

Generosity

נְדִיבוּת
Ne-di-vut

Connection to the theme of Journeys

The brothers set off on a journey to see the world. Their adventures ultimately lead them on a path to self-discovery.

Optional preparation for reading the story:

Place a small Persian-style rug in the center of your classroom, around which to read the story. Bring pomegranates, pomegranate juice, and a plastic table cloth to class.

Before You Read

Jewish Values and Background Information

Cooperation – *Shituf pe'ulah*

Three aspects of this value to consider

- Cooperation sometimes means compromise
- Contribute what you can; add your strengths to any task at hand
- Working well together often has better results than doing things alone

The literal translation of the Hebrew phrase *shituf pe'ulah* is “partnership in action.” Working together is a cornerstone of Jewish life. Prayer services require a *minyan*, a quorum of ten, in order to recite many of our most sacred prayers and to read from the Torah publically. Most Jewish celebrations involve family and friends, and many mitzvot involve social action such as visiting the sick, entertaining the bride and groom at a wedding, and comforting mourners. Judaism recognizes humans are communal beings. We maximize the goodness of life when we work together for everyone's benefit.

Generosity – *Nedivut*

Three aspects of this value to consider

- Generosity involves thinking about another person’s needs
- Consider what you may be able to offer to another person
- Giving something away doesn’t always mean you will have less

Generosity involves graciously sharing the things that we value with others. The concept of *nedivut* urges us to go beyond kindness, and to enthusiastically help those in need. When building the *mishkan* (traveling sanctuary in the desert), the people of Israel were encouraged to participate according to “all the generosity of their heart” (Exodus 35:5). The people brought such a surplus of items, they were soon asked to stop their giving. Other examples of *nedivut* in the Torah include Rebecca’s response to Eliezer’s request for a little water by generously watering all of Eliezer’s camels at the well (Genesis 24:19-20), and Abraham welcoming his guests with a feast, rather than serving a simple snack of bread and water (Genesis 18:6-8).

When You Read

Introducing the story and engaging the children

Set the stage with questions

These three brothers have three very special objects. Can you see what they are? They will use these objects to cooperate on an adventure. What does it mean to cooperate?

Choose a storytelling technique (optional)

1. Bring pomegranates and/or pomegranate juice to class – ask students to imagine what could be magical about it. (Draw their attention to the crown and the seeds.)
2. Ask your students what a magical sound might be. It might be instrumental, such as small chimes or bells, or it might even be a whisper or hum. Ask the listeners to make this sound (or have a sip of pomegranate juice) whenever something magical happens in the story.



After You Read

Making connections and making it personal

Cooperation	Loving others
<p>Discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the brothers cooperate and for what purpose? • What are your experiences cooperating at home? At school? With friends? • In this story the brothers work together to help someone who is sick. How would we, as a class, work together to help someone who is sick (or make a Jewish holiday party or act out this book)? 	<p>Discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this book the brothers are generous. They happily share their gifts to help another person. Can you tell us about someone in your life who is generous? • The youngest brother gives away his magic pomegranate, knowing he would not get it back. What might he have been thinking before he gave it away? • How do the brothers react when the youngest gets to marry the princess? What are some generous ways to respond when one person wins an award or achieves their goal?



Cooperation	Generosity
<p>Activities</p> <p>Magic carpet: All students hold the edges of a cloth and try to flip it over without anyone letting go.</p>  <p>Photo courtesy of National Park Service, Topeka, Kansas</p> <p>Crossing the Red Sea: Students line up at one end of a large room or outdoors on a lawn. They must cross to the other side of the space while their feet remain touching at all times.</p> <p>Cooperative fruit salad: Ask each student to bring a fruit to class. Provide paper plates and plastic knives. Allow each student to chop their fruits and add to the salad.</p>	<p>Activities</p> <p>Chaver sodi (secret friend): Each student gets the name of another student. Leave your secret pal an encouraging note, piece of candy, or other simple gift.</p> <p>Freeze tag: Any participant may unfreeze tagged friends with a compliment. (To avoid frustration, make sure no one is “It” for more than 30 seconds to a minute.)</p> <p>Pay it forward: Brainstorm with your students what they might do for another class. Ask that class to pay it forward and act generously toward someone else.</p> 
<p>Engaging families – cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to create a family scrapbook. Perhaps each member of the family creates their own page in addition to a combined page. Share the book with family and friends – and the class. 	<p>Engaging families – generosity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask families to sponsor your students in a walk-a-thon or contribute to a class tag sale in order to raise money for a worthy cause. 

