

Read the PJ Library Book

Only Nine Chairs (3's)

By Deborah Uchill Miller

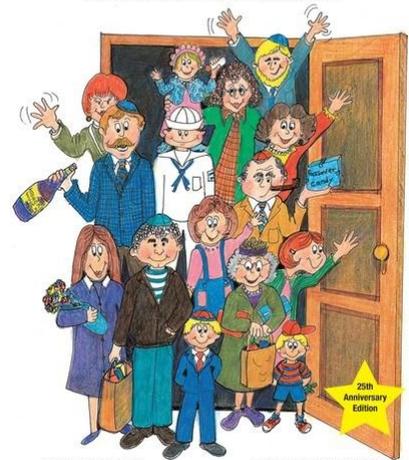
Illustrated by Karen Ostrove

Published by Kar-Ben Publishing

Synopsis

This book of rhyme tells of one family's plight,
When they run out of chairs on Passover night.
The drawings are funny, descriptions outrageous,
And you'll find yourself giggling with laughter contagious.
Yet the steps of the Seder are perfectly clear,
So read it out loud, and read it each year.

ONLY NINE CHAIRS A TALL TALE FOR PASSOVER



Deborah Uchill Miller

Illustrated by Karen Ostrove

Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

From generation to generation - *L'Dor va-Dor* - לדור ודור

Welcoming guests/Hospitality - *hachnasat orchim* - הכנסת אורחים

The Passover Seder - *Seder shel pesach* - סדר של פסח

From generation to generation – L'Dor va-Dor. The Haggadah, the Passover Seder prayer book and guide, states: "*B'chol dor va-dor hayav adam lirot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatzah mi-Mitzrayim*"--"All people, in every generation, should see themselves as having experienced the Exodus from Egypt." Passing on tradition is a top priority of the Jewish people, and the Haggadah gives us insight into one way that can be accomplished. We teach our history to learn from those who went before us. This holds true for family histories as well as shared communal history. The Passover Seder is built to allow us the opportunity to tell and re-live stories. The stories then become part of who we are, enabling us to pass them to the next generation.

[For more about "L'Dor va-Dor" please read the Resource Guides
for *Beni's Family Treasury* and *Hanukkah!*]

Welcoming guests / Hospitality – *Hachnasat orchim*. Passover is one of the most widely celebrated Jewish holidays, and it customarily involves inviting guests to the Seder, the Passover feast. Hospitality is an important Jewish virtue. Role models in the Torah include Abraham and Sarah inviting strangers into their tent for a feast [Genesis 18:2] and Rebecca, Isaac’s future wife, offering water for Abraham’s servant (also a stranger) and his ten thirsty camels. [Genesis 24:18-20] It can be quite overwhelming for young children to have their home suddenly bursting with guests, some of whom may be only occasional visitors. The Talmud (literally, “teaching,” a source of Jewish law and custom) discusses how to be a good host and a good guest. The host should offer bread generously, and the guest must praise his host. [Brachot 46a]



Passover Seder – *Seder shel pesach*. The extensive library of the Jewish Theological Seminary boasts more than 3000 versions of the Haggadah, the Passover Seder prayer book and guide. This speaks to the popularity of the holiday and the desire to maintain its relevance. The Hebrew word Haggadah means “the telling” and the purpose of the Seder is precisely that. The Torah commands us to “tell your child on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I went free from Egypt.'" [Exodus 13:8] The Seder, meaning “order,” has 15 steps which include blessings over symbolic foods, songs, and the story of the exodus from Egypt prompted by “The Four Questions.” It is meant to engage all of the participants in re-telling the Passover story, asking questions, celebrating our freedoms, and recognizing our responsibility to help those less fortunate.

Imagine your community living these Jewish values.

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

In the Classroom / Centers



☆ **From generation to generation:** See yourselves experiencing the Exodus from Egypt by recreating sounds and textures. Add sand paper blocks and [cow, goat] bells to your **music center** to play along with mid-eastern music. Put sand and animals in your **sensory table**. Place a lamp securely on a shelf high above the table and imagine the desert sun.

☆ **Welcoming guests / Hospitality:** Role play guest and host behaviors at **morning meeting**. Practice saying, “Welcome, *b’ruchim ha-baim*.” Add Seder plates, wine cups, and other Passover paraphernalia to your dramatic play area. Remove some chairs to encourage some zany problem-solving a la *Only Nine Chairs*.

☆ **Welcoming guests / Hospitality:** Make chairs out of building blocks (add a cardboard or foam back to a small block) to count, stack, and arrange in your **manipulatives area**.

☆ **Passover Seder:** One of the Four Questions says, “On other nights we may not dip our food even once. Tonight we dip two times.” On the days leading up to your Passover Seder experience, try dipping all kinds of foods at **snack time**, such as pretzels in honey-mustard, graham crackers in apple butter, and carrots in humus. What other foods do your students like to dip? Switch to dipping green veggies into salt water or cucumber-yogurt dip. Point out the differences between everyday dipping and Passover dipping.



Bridging Home and School

Walk-Through Seder

Try a Passover experience instead of a sit-down Seder this year. Create a pathway of “steps” to stations for washing, dipping, making *charoset*, breaking matzah (see how few crumbs you can make), and enacting parts of the Passover story. (How fast can you pack a bag to take with you?) Perhaps your school or synagogue leadership will make cameo appearances as characters in the story.



Back-Pack Challenge

It’s hard to imagine leaving home with only the things you can carry on your back. Ask families to attempt to load an imaginary backpack with their most precious items and share their choices with your class. Keep a running list of objects to carry in the desert.

Family Engagement at Home

The Nibble-Along Seder

One of the earliest steps in the Seder is dipping *karpas*, greens, into salt water. Send home the blessing for this step:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵי פְרִי הָאֲדָמָה
Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, borei p'ri ha-adamah.

Praised are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

Remind parents that once this blessing is said, you can continue to munch on veggies that grow from the ground, such as celery, carrots, broccoli, and green peppers. Perhaps you can send home a few kosher-for-Passover dip recipes. Maybe families will share their favorite dip ideas.

Share

 your stories and experiences with everyone.

What happened?

How can the learning go deeper?

Tell us a story... of your students’ specific interests.

Passover takes a life-time of learning. There is so much information out there it can be daunting for parents to know where to begin. Help your families by pointing out which areas of the story most interested your class. For example: *Our classroom was fascinated by the hurried escape from Egypt. We have been timing how long it takes us to get our backpacks and travel out to the playground. How long does it take you to get out the door in the morning (or any activity)? Get out your stopwatch...*

More

 resources and websites for inspiration

Lots of Passover sites in one http://judaism.about.com/od/passoverforkids/Passover_for_Kids.htm

Even more about Passover <http://tinyurl.com/kveller-Passover>

Table manners for kids <http://www.drdaveanddee.com/elbows.html>

