



GOES to SCHOOL

Read the PJ Library Book

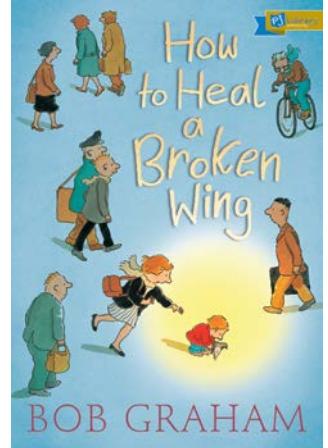
How to Heal a Broken Wing (4's)

Written and Illustrated by Bob Graham

Published by Candlewick Press

Synopsis

A bird flies into a tall glass building and breaks its wing. Only a small boy named Will notices the wounded bird lying on the ground. With few words and elegant illustrations, this story conveys the depth of compassion of Will and his family as they help the bird heal and ultimately set it free.



Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Kindness to animals - *Tza-ar ba-a-lei cha-yim* - צער בעלי חיים

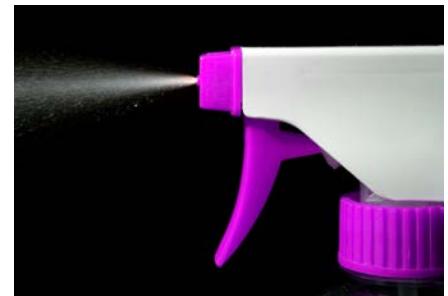
Appreciating God's creations - *Ka-vod ha-briyot* - כבוד הבריות

Visiting the sick - *Bi-kur cholim* - בקר חולים

Appreciating God's creations – Kavod habriyot. The very beginning of the Torah says that God created the world and all of its creatures. Sages teach that people should learn to appreciate the uniqueness of each of God's creations. The Talmud, considered an essential authority on Jewish law and custom, notes that the study of animals can lead to personal growth. For example, we can learn "modesty from the cat, honesty from the ant...and good manners for the rooster" (Babylonian Talmud, Eruvin 100b). The Midrash Rabbah, a commentary on the Torah, teaches that those who learn to recognize the specific needs of God's creatures are destined for greatness. Moses was chosen as the leader of the Children of Israel because of his compassion to a single runaway lamb: "I did not know you ran away because you were thirsty. You are so exhausted!" He then put the lamb on his shoulders and carried him back. The Holy One said, 'Since you tend the sheep [belonging to] human beings with such overwhelming love...you shall be the shepherd of My sheep, Israel'" (Rabbah 2:2).

Kindness to animals – *Tza'ar ba'alei chayim*. The literal translation of the Hebrew phrase *tzaar ba'alei chayim* is “the suffering of living creatures.” Biblical scholars agree this means preventing animals from feeling pain. Rabbinic sages acknowledge that animals have feelings, and several stories in the Torah equate kindness to animals with human virtue. Since animals play an important role in our lives, there are rules in the Torah about their treatment, such as feeding your animals before you eat (Deut 11:15), and giving animals a day of rest on the Sabbath (Deut 5:14).

Visiting the sick – *Bikkur cholim*. According to the Talmud, an ancient text of Jewish laws and customs, visiting sick people helps them to recover (Nedarim 40a). Ancient sages suggested several reasons why this might be so. Perhaps the house is cleaned in preparation for a visit, and the cleaning may lead to healing. Visitors might offer prayers or engage in uplifting conversation which helps the ailing person to revive. In any case, visiting the sick is a good thing to do, and it has become an important *mitzvah* (commandment or good deed) in Jewish tradition.



Imagine your community living these Jewish values.

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

In the Classroom / Centers

- ❖ **Appreciating God's creations:** In this book, Will takes a particular interest in birds. Go on a **nature walk** with your students and count how many birds you see in the sky.
- ❖ **Appreciating God's creations:** Invite a bird specialist or someone with a live bird to visit your classroom during **morning meeting**. Encourage your students to ask questions and make observations about the bird's behavior.
 - ❖ **Kindness to animals:** Adopt an animal at the zoo as a **tzedakah project**. Add books and other research materials to your **science center** so children can learn about your animal's natural habitat and diet. Ask the children what **art materials** they would use to create a likeness of the animal. Collect facts and photos, and make a book to share with families.
 - ❖ **Kindness to animals:** Graph your students' pets and stuffed animal collections as a **math activity**. Which animal shows up most often in this graph?



- ❖ **Visiting the sick:** Place X-rays in your **science center**. Provide tools that allow children to measure and compare the length of their bones to the size of animal bones or human bones visible in the X-rays. Add casts, crutches, and ace bandages to the **dramatic play center**, and see who has the best bed-side manner.
- ❖ **Visiting the sick:** It's not always possible to visit a sick friend or relative, but get-well cards and videos are sure to cheer up anyone's recovery period. Record your students singing a happy song, and share via a private file online.





Bridging Home and School

Cook and Freeze

A first step in starting a *bikkur cholim* (visiting the sick) committee might be a cook-and-freeze night. Families can gather and prepare easily reheatable soups and comfort foods to share with others or serve in their own home when someone is ill.



Give Me Shelter

Arrange for a class visit to an animal shelter, or bring an animal shelter representative to your school. You might be surprised by how many opportunities there are to volunteer – without having contact with the animals themselves. And everyone can [learn this song!](#)

Family Engagement at Home

Forming Good Habitats

Living creatures are everywhere. Challenge families to name or find as many animal habitats as they can, inside and outside the home. How many habitats can you see on an outdoor walk in the neighborhood or in the park?

Share your stories and experiences with everyone.

What happened?

How can the learning go deeper?

Tell us a story... of your depth of appreciation for your students

Over the school year, you develop a profound understanding of your students. You often choose classroom explorations because you know how your students are likely to respond. Give families a glimpse of your thinking process in a way that demonstrates your knowledge of their children's unique interests and abilities. For example: *It's time for our summer garden, but Jason, Becky, and Sam don't like to get their hands dirty. How can we engage them in the wonders of gardening in a way that will appeal to them? Jason and Becky love the block corner, and Sam delights in artwork. First step, gardening gloves. Next, we invited Jason and Becky to build stone borders in our herb garden. Sam is taking charge of creating decorative ID stakes. Our plants – and their fascination with gardening – are budding!*

Then share with all of us on our private Facebook group page! <http://pifor.me/pjgts-facebook>

More resources and websites for inspiration

Lots of recipes <http://allrecipes.com/recipes/everyday-cooking/kosher/>

Animal shelter info <http://www.petfinder.com/animal-shelters-and-rescues/>

Kids and birds <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/bird.html>

