THE ROOSTER PRINCE OF BRESLOV

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In this variation on a well-known Yiddish tale, a young prince takes on the ways of a rooster. His frantic parents try everything they can think of to cure their son. At last, a wise and patient old man tries something very different.

The unnamed elderly man in this version of a renowned Yiddish folktale is an example of the best that a teacher can be. The man's treatment of the rooster prince (and the boy's growing acceptance of the man) exemplifies the Jewish value of *kavod* (respect).

KAVOD

Mutual respect, dignity and honor for all people are the foundations of Jewish ethics. Traditionally, teachers hold a special place of honor in the Jewish community. Discuss with your children your expectations of showing respect toward all others, particularly their teachers. Help them find ways of turning respect into action. These might include:

- Writing a note or creating a small gift for a teacher or principal during a holiday or the end of the school year
- Opening the door for or offering a seat to a teacher or school staff member
- Greeting the teacher with a smile each morning
- Making an effort to listen a bit more quickly when a teacher begins to speak
- Offering to share with the teacher a favorite book from home.

DUGMA

The "gray and grizzled" elderly man in T*he Rooster Prince* approaches his work calmly and with wisdom. His patience, readiness to meet the young prince at his stage and ability to listen and learn, clear lack of concern for appearing foolish, and his willingness to deal with his own physical discomfort in order to help a young boy all point to the man as a fine *dugma* (Hebrew for role model or example). Consider these questions with your children:

- How did the man gain the trust of the prince?
- Why did the old man succeed with the prince when others failed?
- What Jewish values does the man's treatment of the boy show?
- What traits do you share with the old man? with the rooster prince?