



ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY DOWNTOWN

Written by Sydney Taylor

Illustrated by Beth and Joe Krush

This book, a continuation of the All-of-a-Kind Family series, shows a glimpse of Jewish life in America 100 years ago, when New York City had the largest Jewish population in the world. One of the children among the tens of thousands living on the Lower East Side at that time was Sydney Taylor; these books are memories of her own childhood. In some ways, the characters seem familiar to us and, at the same time, quite different.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN READING

- Which character reminds you most of yourself? Why?
- Ella wanted to play Queen Esther in the Purim play, but she didn't get the part. Have you ever wanted something very, very much, but were disappointed as Ella was?
- Imagine how it felt to be Guido, with all of his challenges. If he were your friend, how would you try to help him?
- In talking about Miss Carey, Mama says: "There are exceptional people in this world whose hearts are big." Do you know someone who is exceptional? What makes this person wonderful and unique?

ACTIVITIES

Here are some activities and actions All-of-a-Kind Family Downtown might inspire:

- If you haven't read it yet, check out the first book in this series, All-of-a-Kind Family. Try other books by Sydney Taylor and recommend your favorites to friends and family. (Adults like these books, too!)
- At the end of Sukkot, the children decide to make an even better sukkah the next year. Draw or make a model of the most beautiful sukkah you can imagine. Show that your creation belongs to you: for example, display a family-favorite food or board game on a table in your sukkah
- Throughout this book, the All-of-a-Kinds go out of their way to practice *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving-kindness). Who do you know who could use a visit, an unexpected phone call, a pot of homemade soup, or a cheerful card?