FOX WALKED ALONE
Written by Barbara Reid
Illustrated by Barbara Reid

Fox joins other animals walking two-by-two toward a mysterious destination. Where in the world are they headed?

This story of animals making their way toward a mysterious destination is a unique approach to the Biblical narrative of Noah’s Ark. When the fox deviates from his usual nocturnal ways, he notices animals passing by, two-by-two, and decides to join in the procession. Something is in the air—though no animal voices what it might be—that moves the diverse group of animals forward. The intricate clay illustrations and simple rhyming text will keep both you and your children moving through the book right along with the procession of animals.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Penguins, alligators and tigers travel and even lie down peacefully together in this story. The book’s “characters” are of many kinds: timid, aggressive, flyers, hoppers, meat eating, vegetarian, spotted and striped, yet they have a common goal and help each other reach it.

*Fox Walked Alone* asks us to consider the question: How can we all be part of a *kehillah chesed*, a caring community? How is that all the animals were able to get along despite their innate differences? Encourage your children to take part in local acts of kindness. As a family, collect rubbish on your street; have your youngsters help prepare and deliver a surprise meal for a neighbor; encourage your children to share a favorite book with someone in the neighborhood; contact a homeless shelter and learn how your family can help. Brainstorm ideas; make acts of kindness a family habit.

Discuss with your children about the long journey these animals took. You might consider asking some of these questions:

- What animals in the book can you name? Which animals not shown can you list?
- Which animals have fur and which have feathers? Which have two feet and which have four? What colors are the animals?
- How would the world be different without pets and other animals?
- There are many Jewish guidelines about the treatment of animals. For example, animals should be ‘fed before we feed ourselves.’

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