



LATKES AND APPLESAUCE

Written by Fran Manushkin

Illustrated by Robin Spowart

Sadie and her brothers are very poor and hungry until an old woman gives Sadie a frying pan that continues to make latkes until a magic word makes it stop.

This tale of the *shtetl* (from the Yiddish, an Eastern European village with a significant Jewish population) tells a gentle story of a family's *Hanukkah* celebration and of that family caring for others of God's creatures. While the parents and children in *Latkes and Applesauce* may seem very different in some ways from your family, there are also many similarities.

The Hebrew phrase *l'dor v'dor*—literally, from generation to generation—refers not only to the loving connections between the older and younger members of a family, but is a reminder of the responsibility to teach our children important truths and values. Holiday celebrations are an important means of accomplishing this. Like the Menashe family in this long-ago story, Jews everywhere in the world still light *Hanukkah* candles and put them in the window for all to see, sing holiday songs, play *dreidel*, cook *latkes* and *applesauce*, and teach their children to care for animals as part of God's creation. Point out to your youngsters the many ways in which life changes over time; point out, too, important intangibles that remain constant year after year, *l'dor v'dor*: lighting *Hanukkah* candles, giving names to new family members, and caring for God's creatures.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

In the Torah, God tasked Adam with naming the animals. In this book, Rebecca and Ezra name new pets, taking their time and choosing carefully. Selecting a name is important work, since “a name should fit as well as a glove.” If you're able, explain to your children where your family names originated. Discuss what prompted the names you gave your little ones; share with them other names you considered for them; tell them how the final decision was made. If your children have Hebrew names, share how these reflect your hopes and dreams or honor a loved one. Consider creating a rudimentary family tree, making a visual connection on paper between you, your children and the family members who came before. Pj

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