



# MRS. MOSKOWITZ AND THE SABBATH CANDLESTICKS

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*An elderly woman is unable to enjoy her new residence until her rediscovery of a pair of memory-filled Sabbath candlesticks turns an apartment into a home.*

## JEWISH CONCEPTS

### Shabbat

*Shabbat* (the Jewish Sabbath) can be experienced in many different ways. It is traditionally a restful day marked by a family dinner on Friday night, lunch on Saturday afternoon, and participating in services at a synagogue.

While there are numerous ways to observe the religious rituals of *Shabbat*, for many families it is an opportunity to spend time with one another. *Shabbat* can be a lovely time to invite guests for dinner, read stories, visit with each other, or take a walk. After the hectic pace of the week, *Shabbat* provides a “space in time” to savor a meal and enjoy meaningful conversation as a family.

### Honoring the Elderly

Respecting and caring for the elderly are significant Jewish values. *V’hadarta P’nei Zaken* is the Biblical teaching to respect the elderly. In Israel, every public bus has a sign that states “*V’hadarta p’nei zaken,*” clearly instructing the young that they should offer their seats to anyone older who does not have one.

## USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

*Mrs. Moskowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks* can spark questions for your family to explore.

- Why does Mrs. Moskowitz not see her new home as a “real” home? What made her old house feel like home?
- Why do the candlesticks make such a big difference to Mrs. Moskowitz?
- What special things help you feel that the place where you live is “home?”

This book provides a wonderful opportunity for family discussion about sensitivity to the elderly. A visit from a neighbor or a card in the mail can mean a great deal. Help your children notice those who might benefit from some attention and together think of ways to brighten the day of an older person.

Bake *challah* together! For something a bit less traditional, make whole-wheat, raisin, or even chocolate-chip *challah*! Plan a *Shabbat* dinner and invite guests to share a meal that includes your home-baked bread.