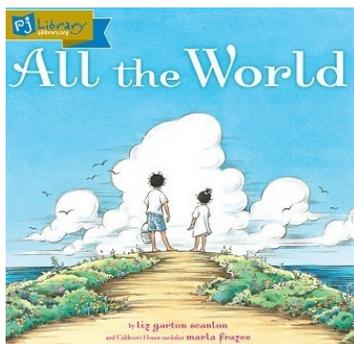


BIG QUESTION

What are you grateful for?



READ the PJ Library book

All the World

Written by
Liz Garton Scanlon
Illustrated by
Marla Frazee
Published by
Simon and Schuster, Inc.

Gratitude
Hakarat hatov



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS
www.pjlibrary.org

Read the book for Jewish values

All the World (3s)

Gratitude - *Ha-ka-rat ha-tov* - הַכָּרַת הַטוֹב

Judaism encourages individuals to infuse their life with gratitude. Talmudic sage Rabbi Meir thought every person should strive to say 100 blessings every day to express gratitude for the world and its gifts. The Jewish value *hakarat hatov*, which literally means “recognizing the good,” encourages us to acknowledge and say thanks to all those who bring good into our lives. *All the World*, with its focus on the beauty of the world and the power of family love, is a wonderful introduction to Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah commemorates the birthday of the world and reminds us to take stock of our lives and express gratitude for all that surrounds us.

Optional storytelling technique

The beautiful illustrations in this book convey a message as powerful as its poetry. Look for families and objects that appear on more than one page. What stories can you find within the repeated images?

Discuss Jewish values with one another

Find time to think about what this value means to you personally before you bring it into the classroom

For the teacher's consideration

- Research shows that taking time to be grateful for the good in life makes you happier. Can you describe times when gratitude has had a positive impact on your life?
- Think of someone with whom you share a close relationship. How does gratitude affect your relationship?
- How do you make expressions of gratitude part of your everyday curriculum and routines?

Questions for children

- This book is full of pictures of places and people who make the world beautiful and fill us with happiness. Let's look at one page of the book and see if we can say “thank you” to everything on the page that makes us feel happy.
- Can you think of a place that makes you feel very happy? Can you name three things that are found in this place to which you'd like to say thank you?
- When is it good to say thank you? Why should we say thank you?



Imagine

how values will come to life

**How will your environment reflect the value of gratitude?
What might change in your classroom?**

Science - Bring binoculars and magnifying glasses outside to look for and examine the world's wonders.

Art - Take clay or an easel and paint outdoors to inspire natural art.

Math - Can you meet the 100 blessings a day (week or month) challenge? Keep a tally of what you and your students are thankful for.

Music/Gross motor - Play a game of "Todah/thank you" freeze tag. Play music and ask the children to freeze whenever the song stops. Then tap one or several students on the head, asking them to say "todah" for something for which they are thankful. Continue dancing and freezing until every child has had a chance to offer thanks. Look for PJ Library thank you songs [here](#).



Engage

families in conversations about values

How can you deepen home-school relationships?

Gratitude wall

Place a stack of blank index cards and a container of markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc. on a table. Encourage families to write a few words and draw a quick image of something for which they are thankful, and then attach their card to the wall. Periodically review the cards that adorn the wall and ask children help you figure out ways to group the words by categories.

Rose and thorn

At the end of each day invite families to share their "rose" and "thorn" of day — a high point followed by a low. For a more advanced version of the game, see if you can come up with a way to view the thorn in a more positive manner. (I fell in a puddle, but when I came back inside, I changed into dry clothes and realized how good it felt to be warm.)

More on this topic...

PJ Library books

The Shabbat Puppy

by Leslie Kimmelman

The Little, Little House

by Jessica Souhami

PJ Blog

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/october-2016/8-ways-to-teach-kids-about-gratitude>



DISCUSS Jewish values Gratitude Hakarat hatov

The literal translation of this value is recognizing the good; it involves expressing appreciation for the gifts and wonders that surround us.

- Name one person or thing that helped you feel good today and deserves thanks.

DO fun stuff at home

Gratitude placemat

- Cut 6x6 squares of paper
- Draw or glue pictures of things that make you thankful.
- Tape together or seal with clear contact paper for hanging or placemat.



MORE resources

Watch the Shaboom videos
For [parents](#); For [kids](#)

