

The Rabbi Slurps Spaghetti

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Who do you want to be like?

Do as I Say and as I Do

“Make for yourself a teacher” says *Pirkei Avot*, a collection of Jewish wisdom. For many Jewish people, an important teacher is their rabbi (from the Hebrew word *rav*, “teacher”). Rabbis teach during synagogue services and in classrooms, but often the most important teaching they do is by example, like Rabbi Max in this story. Through kind speech and actions, enthusiastic participation in community life, and care for those around them, rabbis teach with their lives.

The More We Get Together...

Rabbi Max is busy — just following him around is tiring! He’s celebrating, dancing, braiding, building, singing, praying, volunteering, comforting. This book shows us that all of us — not just rabbis — can be a part of the community, and how each of us can use our unique talents to contribute to the greater whole. This is not a new idea. Almost 2000 years ago, the Talmud (the core collection of rabbinic writings) said that Jews should live in a place that has, among other things, a court, a charity fund, a teacher, and a synagogue, because those are necessary features of community life. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/rabbislurps.

Watching Words

It’s not easy being the rabbi’s daughter — you’re often in the public eye. Maybe that’s why Rabbi Max’s daughter wants to be a *private* eye. In her detective work, she follows an important Jewish concept called *shmirat halashon*, which means “guarding the tongue.” She’s careful to say “please don’t spread this around” and “this is top secret,” so she doesn’t embarrass the rabbi (her dad!). After all, we all have our quirks. (Don’t pretend you don’t slurp your spaghetti, too!)

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

Why do we need teachers? Who are your favorite teachers?

What can you do to help people in your community?

If you were a detective-in-training, whom would you follow around?



HANDS ON!

Become a Kid Detective!



In this story, Lena is a detective-in-training — and it looks like she’s having fun. Try your hand at a little detective work in your home. All you *really* need is a sense of curiosity and the power of observation, but a few extra tools can’t hurt.

Supplies

Notebook

Pen

Magnifying glass (optional)

Binoculars (optional)

Zippered plastic “evidence bags” (optional)

Flashlight (optional)



Got your kit ready? Go from room to room and see what you can detect. Use the flashlight to illuminate dark corners; the magnifying glass will help you see things close-up. If you find something noteworthy, drop it in an evidence bag for further examination. You might be surprised at some of the things you learn.