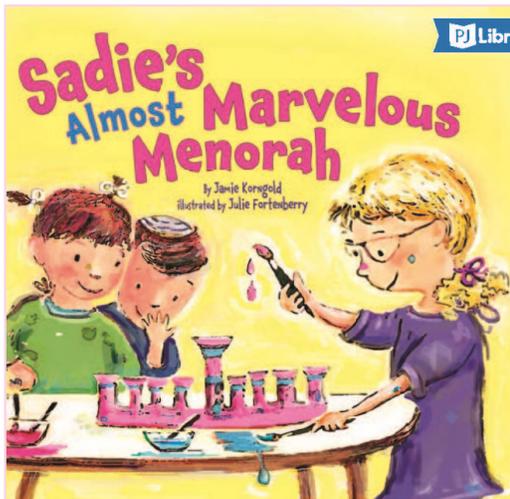


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{ How can we help fix what's broken? }

Dark Days

These are dark times for Sadie. She has worked hard making her menorah, but in her excitement to show it to her mother, it falls and shatters. Hanukkah teaches that with darkness comes the possibility of light – that in the darkest season of the year, we can still make light, and in the face of oppression we can stand up for what's right. That's also what Sadie's mom teaches her. Not everything that breaks can be put back together, but there is always some way to light the darkness. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/sadiesmenorah.

Lighting the Way

When lighting a menorah, we use a *shammash*, a "helper candle." The shammash helps light the other candles in the menorah, but it helps in other ways, too. According to ancient Jewish law, the other eight Hanukkah candles are for inspiration only, and we shouldn't use their light for our benefit (for help seeing, for example). So in pre-electricity days, the shammash helped provide light for reading, playing dreidel (a classic Hanukkah game), and so on. In this book, a philosophical question is posed: Who lights the lighter? The answer here is Sadie's Super Shammash, a helper candle that Sadie will use to light her family's shammash candles. Even helpers need a little help sometimes.

Helping Hands

In a menorah, the shammash is a candle, but in this story, being a shammash is a very human role. Sadie's teacher, Morah Rachel, helps the children get excited about Hanukkah by making their own menorahs. Sadie's friends help collect the pieces of Sadie's broken menorah. Sadie's mother helps Sadie overcome her sadness about her broken menorah. And Sadie's family helps her feel that her Super Shammash is truly special.

HANDS ON!

Make a Clay Craft-Stick Menorah

You can make a clay menorah like Sadie's. Craft-stick candles result in a safe, flame-free menorah project. Just be careful not to drop it!

Supplies

Air-dry clay (available at art-supply stores)
Small bowl of water
9 craft sticks (one for each night of Hanukkah, plus the shammash)
Acrylic paints



- 1 Cover your work surface with a plastic tablecloth.
- 2 Shape the clay however you like. Use water to smooth out cracks and help bind pieces of clay together.
- 3 Use a craft stick to create holes for the "candles." Put the shammash on a slightly higher piece of the menorah.
- 4 Paint the craft sticks to look like colorful candles with yellow flames at the top. When your menorah has dried, you can paint it, too.
- 5 Add another "candle" to your menorah on each night of the holiday. Don't forget the shammash! Happy Hanukkah!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

HOW do you think Sadie feels when her menorah breaks?

HAS something you made ever been broken? What did you do?

WHAT new ritual does Sadie's family create? Does your family have unique rituals?