

The Schmutzy Family

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READING
GUIDE

{ What makes Shabbat different? }

Thank God It's Friday

The Schmutzys are—well, *schmutzy*. All week long they're wading, digging, splattering, and generally making a fine old mess. But when Friday rolls around, the Schmutzys get "unstuck and unstunk and unswamped and unpainted." That's because Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, arrives on Friday evening. From sunset Friday till Saturday evening when three stars appear in the night sky, families celebrate Shabbat in countless ways. For the Schmutzys, this includes candle lighting on Friday evening, enjoying a special meal, singing, and going to synagogue services.

Shabbat offers an opportunity to get spiffed up—as well as a chance to see friends, visit relatives, enjoy special foods, and catch up with everyone about what happened during the week. Regardless of how your family celebrates, Shabbat is a time to unwind and recharge before getting stuck, stunk, and swamped all over again. To learn more about Shabbat, visit pjlibrary.org/schmutzyfamily.

Pardon My Yiddish

The Schmutzy family sprinkles their conversation with Yiddish, a European-Jewish language that combines elements of German and Hebrew. Some Yiddish words are used so often by English speakers that they've made their way into the English lexicon. As readers may already have figured out, *schmutzy* is Yiddish for "dirty," and *farshinken* means "stinky." The Schmutzys also use the Yiddish pronunciation *Shabbos* for Shabbat.

Sameach B'Chelko

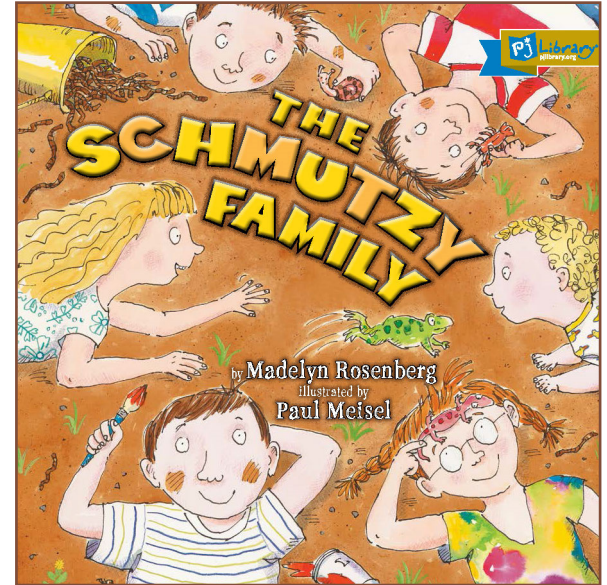
So they're a little messy, a little stinky. So what? Regardless of what they do, the Schmutzys seem to enjoy just being together. The Hebrew phrase *sameach b'chelko* means being satisfied with what one has. A lesson in *Pirkei Avot* (a book of teachings from ancient Jewish sages) reads: "Who is rich? One who is content with one's lot." The Schmutzys have taken this idea to heart. While they "clean up their act" for Shabbat, the Schmutzys still enjoy themselves—together.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

When is it okay to be messy?

Why do the Schmutzys clean up for Shabbat?

How is your family like the Schmutzy family?



HANDS ON!

4 Activities for Outdoor Fun

Thanks to their laidback approach to *schmutz*, the Schmutzys get lots of outdoor playtime. Researchers say nature play benefits kids on physical, cognitive, and emotional levels (*and it's fun*). Stock up on laundry soap, then shoo your family out the door.



- 1** **Add water.** A sprinkler, or even just a hose, can provide an afternoon of fun on hot days.
- 2** **Make mud pies.** Add a little water to dirt and you've got a tactile learning tool.
- 3** **Pack a picnic.** Eating outdoors—even if it's just a snack—can be way more fun than eating at the table.
- 4** **Build a fire.** A well-supervised evening campfire is a cozy setting for family time. Search the night sky for stars while you're out there!