



THE LITTLEST PAIR

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There isn't one animal happy to see a pair of termites come aboard their temporary floating home. When things aboard the ark get slippery and uncomfortable and the little termites have a solution to their problem, all those creatures quickly change their tune.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Noah and the Flood

The story of Noah and the Flood comprises one of the first major accounts of the Bible, coming chronologically after the creation of the world, the Garden of Eden, and Cain and Abel. It is a universal story, part of our shared history. Most cultures have a similar flood story in which a hero is directed by God (or another divine being) to build a boat and escape the destruction of the world by water.

For those who feel that the story of the Flood can be problematic for young children, *The Littlest Pair* offers an opportunity to discuss Noah's Ark and the Flood without talking about God punishing wickedness or waters destroying the world. Reading this story, children and adults can begin to imagine being a "passenger" on the ark.

Use the cheerful illustrations in *The Littlest Pair* to talk with your children about the many fascinating animals in the world. How many different animals in the book can they count? How many can they name? What were the biggest animals on the ark and which were the smallest? Why was it important for all the pairs of animals to have a place on the ark?

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Shalom Bayit

While *Shalom Bayit* (Hebrew for "Peace in the Home") generally refers to harmony among humans, the animals in *The Littlest Pair* learned some powerful lessons about the respect, compromise, and consideration necessary for a peaceful household. What was Noah's message about getting along with others, especially in tight situations? How would your family react to the atmosphere on the ark?

Why did the other animals in this story not want the termites to come on board? You might explain to your children that people are sometimes apprehensive about others who aren't familiar to them or whom they don't immediately understand. What was it about the termites that upset the other, larger animals? What lesson about jumping to quick conclusions did the animals learn?