

The Eight Knights of Hanukkah

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{ **How do you shine?** }

Shine On

Opportunities to show kindness and bravery are never far away. In this story, the knights of Hanukkah discover a multitude of mitzvot (plural of mitzvah, Hebrew for “commandment” or good deed) waiting just beyond the castle walls. They help prepare latkes for Hanukkah, serve soup to the sick, keep lonely people company, and even fix dreidels. But you don’t have to be a knight to do a mitzvah. All it takes is willing hands and a kind heart – and maybe a shield, just in case you encounter a baby dragon along the way. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/eightknights

HANDS ON!

Go on a Kindness Quest

Go for a walk in your neighborhood and see how many opportunities you can find to be kind!

Supplies:

Awesome kindness
Stupendous bravery

You might help an elderly person carry groceries, clean up litter from the ground, leave bouquets of wildflowers on neighbors’ doorsteps, help a bug stranded on its back flip over...the possibilities to do a mitzvah are truly endless. When you’re done, you can celebrate your “spectacular deeds and derring-do” at your own feast (or at dinnertime with your family).

Helping Out at Home

There are so many ways to “helpeth” out in the world, it can be easy to forget the place where kindness and bravery should begin – at home. By “staying in,” Sir Henry teaches us that our own families should be the first recipients of our helpful acts. There are many ways to lend a hand at home – caring for younger siblings, cleaning and tidying up, cooking homemade food for the family, walking the dog... Once we’ve taken care of our homes and families, then we’re ready to ride out into the kingdom to help others.

Light It Up

Check out how Rosie the Dragon lights the menorah on the last page of this story. When we add candles to a menorah each night, we add them from right to left, but we light the newest one first and then work our way back -- left to right, just as Rosie does. Traditionally, the candles are lit with the shamash (the ninth “helper” candle), but Rosie lights them with her breath! Don’t try that at home...unless you’re a dragon.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHAT is your favorite way to help another person?

WHAT can you do at home to help your family?

HAVE you ever been scared of something and then discovered later that it wasn’t so dreadful after all?