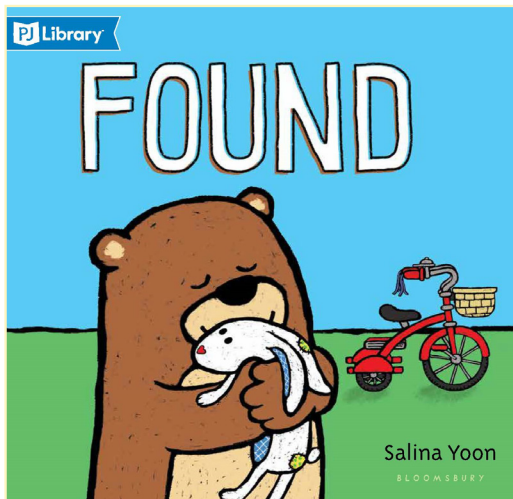


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{How do you know what's truly yours?}

Finders, Keepers?

Bear has found “the most special thing”. . . but he knows he can’t keep it, because he guesses that Floppy is special to someone else, too. When Bear searches high and low for the bunny’s owner, he’s fulfilling the mitzvah (“commandment” or good deed) of hashavat aveidah, Hebrew for “returning lost objects.” Empathy is at the root of hashavat aveidah. No one wants to lose an object that’s valuable to them, but in the end, it’s the sort of act that helps build empathy in children — and, evidently, bears. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/found.

HANDS ON!

Make a Passing-On Package

When Moose finds Floppy, he’s happy — but he doesn’t really need Floppy anymore, so he passes the stuffy on to Bear. Consider passing on some of your old stuffies or other toys to kids who will enjoy them as much as you have.

Supplies:

- Cardboard box
- Markers and stickers
- Old toys with life left in them

Step 1: Select the toys that you are ready to pass on to someone else.

Step 2: Decorate the box with the markers and stickers. Then fill it up!

Step 3: Give your Passing-On Package to a younger friend — or donate it to a thrift shop, survival center, or women and children’s shelter. Someone will be sure to find your old toys “the most special things.”

Safe and Sound

According to the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), if we find a lost ox or sheep, we must bring it back to its owner — and if we don’t know who the owner is, we have to keep the animal until it’s claimed. The same goes for other objects, including stuffed bunnies: “So shall you do with any lost article . . . you shall not ignore it” (Deuteronomy 22:3). It’s not enough simply to hold on to the object; you must keep it safe. Bear does a great job of that: Floppy is safe and sound on Bear’s back, and is always under Bear’s watchful eye. Good job, Bear!

Hand-Me-Downs

Moose hands down Floppy to Bear because he doesn’t need Floppy anymore — but he’s giving Bear more than a stuffed toy. When Moose asks, “Will you take good care of Floppy for me?” he makes clear that Floppy is special, and taking care of special things is an important value. In the Jewish concept of l’dor vador (Hebrew for “from generation to generation”), adults play a meaningful role by teaching and modeling positive values and traditions to children. What better hand-me-downs could there be?

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

DO you have a stuffed animal that you love very much? What makes that animal special?

HOW do you think Bear feels when Moose sees Floppy? What makes you think that?

HAS someone ever found one of your toys? Have you found someone else’s toy? What happened?