

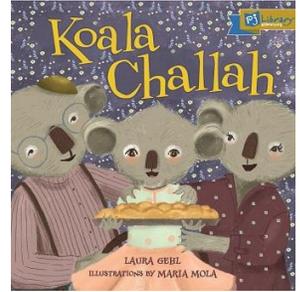
Read the PJ Library Book

Koala Challah (4s)

Written by Laura Gehl

Illustrated by Maria Mola

Published by Kar-Ben Publishing



Synopsis

Lila wants to help her family prepare for Shabbat, but her attempts result in a huge mess. After careful consideration Lila decides to bake the most delicious challah ever. What do you think is her secret ingredient?

Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Perseverance/*hat-ma-da* - התמדה

Creativity/*ye-tzi-ra-ti-yut* - יצירתיות

Introducing the value of perseverance *Hatmada*

From Jewish teachings

Judaism applauds perseverance. The Bible teaches that righteous people may complete a task by “falling seven times but always getting up again” (Proverbs 24:16). More important than attaining an end-goal is one’s willingness to keep on working. *Pirkei Avot*, a classical volume of Jewish ethics, reminds individuals that “You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it” (2:21).

For the teacher

- What types of thoughts and feelings tend to undermine perseverance?
- What do you think are the benefits of developing perseverance in young children?
- How do you currently encourage perseverance within your classroom?



Questions for children

- Even though Lila’s first attempts at making challah didn’t come out right, she kept on trying. Can you describe something that you had to do many times before you were able to succeed?
- Why is it important to keep on trying even when you don’t seem to be succeeding?
- What might be good words to tell yourself whenever you’re having trouble doing or learning something new?

Engage the families in your community

How can you involve families and deepen home-school relationships?

Wait for it...

Set up tables for make-your-own baggie ice cream, either for breakfast (yum!) or for an after school snack. Post a [pictorial recipe](#) and provide all of the supplies, such as baggies, half-and-half or soy milk, vanilla, ice, and kosher salt. A large analog clock might be fun, too, to help you keep track of the time. Baggie ice cream requires a considerable amount of perseverance since it involves about eight minutes of shaking before the cream turns to ice cream.



Banner design

Draw on the creativity of your families (pun intended), and encourage everyone to help decorate a large Shabbat Shalom banner that will be displayed in the entrance of the school every Friday. Supply families with many interesting craft materials that can be sewn or glued to the banner. Be sure to have a variety of markers and fabric dyes and paints available as well.

At Home

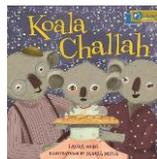
See below for a mini-newsletter about this book. Cut on the dotted line to send directly to parents, or copy any part for your website or electronic communication with families.



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Longing to participate in her family's Shabbat preparations, Lila takes on the task of making challah. Determined to bake the most delicious challah, Lila spends the entire week perfecting her challah-making skills.

DISCUSS Jewish values

Perseverance- *Hat-ma-da*

Judaism applauds keeping at a task, even when the chances of completion are small.

☆ How do you feel when you're able to do something new after trying and practicing for a long time?

Creativity- *Ye-tzi-ra-ti-yut*

Jewish sources encourage us to develop our creative talents in order to leave our own special mark.

☆ What's an activity that you use creativity for? What makes that special for you?

DO fun stuff at home

Puzzle it out



Start a family jigsaw puzzle or building project, such as from [Kiwi Crate](#), that takes several days to complete.

Commend one another on your progress and creativity.

MORE resources

Pay attention to play:

<http://to.pbs.org/2x0z3nT>

Growth mindset and perseverance:

<http://theatln.tc/2hFrqJC>

