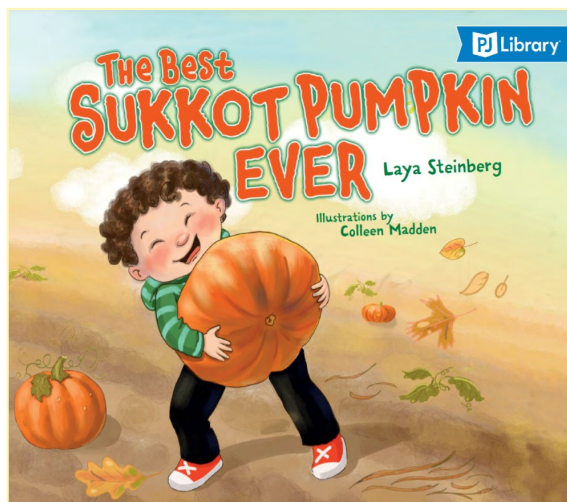


The Best Sukkot Pumpkin Ever

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{ **What do we share?** }

Attitude of Gratitude

Micah and his family get ready for Sukkot, the fall harvest festival, by visiting a pumpkin patch. At first, Micah only has eyes for pumpkins he'd like to take home for himself, but then he remembers: "Not everyone was as lucky as his family." What better time to feel grateful than harvest time? And what better way to show gratitude for what you have than to give to those who have less? By the end of the story, Micah would surely agree with the famous teaching of the great first-century sage Rabbi Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I'm only for myself, what am I?" To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/bestsukkotpumpkin.

HANDS ON!

Pump Up the Gratitude

When fall arrives, pumpkins suddenly seem like they're everywhere! It's the perfect time to make a pumpkin decoration for your family — and fill it with seeds of gratitude.

Supplies:

Large paper or poster board

Markers or paint

Scissors

Tape

On the large paper or poster board, draw a big pumpkin. Color or paint it any way you like (orange is classic, but rainbow pumpkins are great, too!). Cut out the pumpkin. On the paper/poster board scraps, draw and cut out oval seed shapes that are just large enough to write on. Write something you're grateful for on each seed, then tape it to the pumpkin. Keep adding seeds as you think of more things and try to fill up your pumpkin with gratitude! Hang the pumpkin in your home where your family can see and be inspired by it.

Seeds of Renewal

Micah finds a squishy, rotten pumpkin — but with a little education from Farmer Jared, Micah learns that the decomposing pumpkin will reinvigorate the soil so more pumpkins can grow. And don't forget the seeds! Micah understands that the seeds he takes home with him will grow into a little pumpkin patch of his very own that can add joy to his family's Sukkot celebration and be shared with others. These are important lessons about the power of renewal and growth: We can partner with the earth to help turn the old into the new, tiny seeds of potential into beautiful shiny produce. Now that's something worth digging in the dirt for!

Sky Calendar

These days, most people keep track of important dates in phones and planners. But when it comes to the Jewish calendar, we can just look up! The Hebrew months always begin with the new moon, so observing the sky tells us where we are in the month. Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, comes at the beginning of the month of Tishrei, when there's hardly a sliver of the moon in sight. But when Sukkot rolls around two weeks later, there's the full moon in all its glowing, round, pumpkin-like glory! It's the perfect celestial companion for a holiday of harvest, abundance, and gratitude.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHEN was a time you shared something with a friend or family member?

MICAH helps those in need by providing food and decorations to a soup kitchen. What can you do to help those in need?

IF you had a garden (maybe you do!), what would you grow there?