



CHICKEN SOUP, CHICKEN SOUP

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Sophie has two Grandmas from two different cultures, and they each make their own kind of chicken soup – and each soup is delicious! The more Sophie learns about those soups, the more she realizes how similar they actually are – on many levels.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

One can travel to almost any country in the world and find Jews living there. Over the centuries, various historical events have caused the Jewish people to spread out across the globe and inhabit a diverse array of places such as Ethiopia, Russia, India, Japan, and South Africa, to name a few. Many have maintained a strong connection to their Jewish heritage in these new lands. At the same time, elements of the host cultures have made impressions on Jewish tradition and practice so that Judaism looks a little different from one place to another. This can be seen in the way Jews from different regions cook, dress, pray, interpret Jewish texts, and live their everyday lives.

In *Chicken Soup, Chicken Soup*, Sophie comes from a family that is both Jewish and Chinese. Through her relationships with her grandmothers, she learns to appreciate her dual heritage and to realize that the two sides of her family don't have to oppose each other. The combination of customs and practices from both traditions can provide for new and beautiful ways of doing things.

The Jewish people are a fascinating family, a colorful mosaic. Though its members are unique and distinct -- and may live on opposite sides of the world from one another -- they form one people. This provides a beautiful opportunity to learn how differences can bring us together and make us stronger.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Explore your family's unique heritage with the following activities and discussion questions:

- Talk about your family's unique background. What are the differences between the two "sides"? What are the similarities? Like Sophie's grandmothers in this story, they might have more in common than you think!
- What makes you you? Encourage all family members to think about the things that make them a unique individual: nationality, likes, dislikes, personality traits, talents, etc. Have each person create an "All About Me" poster by drawing pictures on poster board to represent these personal qualities. Find a special place in your home to display the art so that everyone can see what makes your family one-of-a-kind!
- Does your family have a special tradition, such as cooking a particular dish, like the chicken soup in this story? If so, make a point of doing it together, teaching even the youngest family members. Encourage youngsters to continue the tradition by passing it along to their children someday.