



## HANUKKAH DELIGHT!

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*Gather round to light the menorah, spin the dreidel, eat latkes, and sing songs! Hanukkah rituals are always delightful – especially when bunnies are involved.*

### JEWISH CONCEPTS

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is a welcome moment of brightness during a dark time of the year. Starting on the 25th of the Jewish month of *Kislev* (late November or December) and lasting for eight days, the holiday commemorates the victory of the Maccabees, a small Jewish rebel army, over the Greeks who were ruling Judea during the second century BCE. When the Maccabees took back the Temple from the Greeks, they discovered the soldiers had desecrated it – and had extinguished the menorah, the oil lamp. The Maccabees found just enough oil to light the menorah for one day, but it stayed lit for eight days – long enough for more oil to be procured.

Jews around the world celebrate this miracle – and more broadly, the religious freedom that it represents – by lighting a *hanukkiyah* (Hanukkah menorah), playing *dreidel* (a game with a spinning top), giving *gelt* (money – real or chocolate), and of course, feasting! The family in this book eats potato pancakes, or *latkes*; other Hanukkah treats include *sufganiyot*, jelly donuts. Both these foods are fried in oil to remind us of the miracle in the Temple. But the best part of any Hanukkah celebration is getting together with family and friends for a little warmth, joy, and light. Happy Hanukkah!