



Meet the Matzah

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Why are stories powerful?

An Epic Story

Ten mind-blowing plagues, the takedown of a tyrannical nation, the exodus of an entire community from slavery to freedom . . . it doesn't get much more epic than the Passover story (although Loaf's version comes close!). The story doesn't end when the Israelites leave Egypt. One of the most thrilling parts is yet to come: the Red Sea miraculously splits in two so that the entire Jewish people can pass through it to freedom. It's easy to see why this story has inspired the fight for justice and equality throughout human history. If miracles like that are possible, then anything is possible. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/meetthematzah.

Moses the Man

Moses was no superhero. In fact, the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) says he's "the most humble of men." But what is humility (anavah in Hebrew) all about? In Jewish tradition, humility is not about being meek, shrinking, or hiding (sorry, Alfie). It's about knowing how to take up space in the world: when to lead, and when to follow; when to speak out, and when to be quiet. Moses resisted God's call at first -- he was worried he wouldn't succeed. But eventually he understood that it was time for him to fill the space of "leader," and we remember him as the greatest of the Jewish prophets because of it. Alfie also discovers what kind of space he needs fill when he stands up to Loaf: "Let my story go!" Moses would be proud.

Tell Your Child

When Alfie summons the courage to liberate the Passover story from Loaf, he shows us what that miraculous story is all about. The Torah says, "Tell your child on this day [about the Exodus from Egypt]" (Exodus 13:8), encouraging us to bring the story of Passover alive for our kids. Why? Because they will pass it to the generations after them. The Haggadah (the text of the Passover seder) describes Four Children, describing ways to help every kind of child make a personal connection with the story so they can become the storytellers of the future. Maybe Alfie's friends Loaf and Challah will take their first seder experience and pass it on to others, too.

HANDS ON!

Tell Your Version of the Passover Story

Why let Loaf have all the fun? Passover is a time for telling stories. Take this opportunity to tell your own funny version of the Passover story, or a different funny story from your own life. Feel free to embellish, just as Loaf does!

Supplies:

Blank or lined paper

Crayons/markers/colored pencils

Pictures cut out from magazines (optional)

Stapler

Write the story toward the bottom of the pages, leaving plenty of room for drawings on top. Illustrate the pages with drawings. If you like, you can also find pictures in magazines that help bring your story to life. (Ask if it's okay before you cut them out!)

Make a cover for your book and staple the pages together. Share your story with friends and family and encourage them to write and share their own stories.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

AT the start of this story, we're told that Alfie "is just like you except he's bread." How is Alfie like you?

WHAT do you like about Loaf's version of the Passover story? What do you like about Alfie's?

IF your teacher asked you to tell a story about your favorite holiday, what holiday would you talk about, and what would you say?