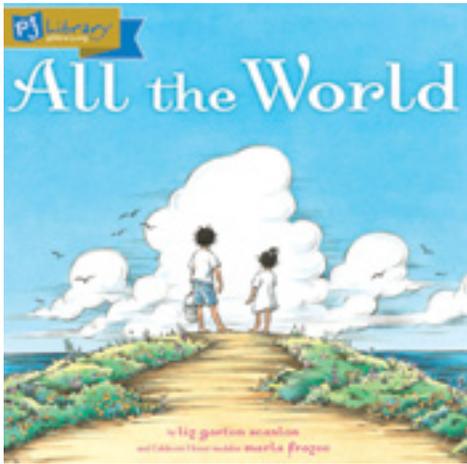


BIG QUESTION

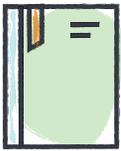
What are you grateful for?



Written by Liz Garton Scanlon
Illustrated by Marla Frazee
Published by Simon and Schuster, Inc.



Gratitude - *Ha-ka-rat ha-tov* – הַפֶּרַת הַטּוֹב



READ

the book for Jewish values

Judaism encourages individuals to infuse their life with gratitude. Talmudic sage Rabbi Meir thought every person should strive to say 100 blessings every day to express gratitude for the world and its gifts. The Jewish value *hakarat hatov*, which literally means “recognizing the good,” encourages us to acknowledge and say thanks to all those who bring good into our lives. *All the World*, with its focus on the beauty of the world and the power of family love, is a wonderful introduction to Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah commemorates the birthday of the world and reminds us to take stock of our lives and express gratitude for all that surrounds us.

Optional storytelling technique

The beautiful illustrations in this book convey a message as powerful as its poetry. Look for families and objects that appear on more than one page. What stories can you find within the repeated images?



DISCUSS

Jewish values with one another

For the teacher's consideration

- Research shows that taking time to be grateful for the good in life makes you happier. Can you describe times when gratitude has had a positive impact on your life?
- Think of someone with whom you share a close relationship. How does gratitude affect your relationship?
- How do you make expressions of gratitude part of your everyday curriculum and routines?

Questions for children

- This book is full of pictures of places and people who make the world beautiful and fill us with happiness. Let's look at one page of the book and see if we can say “thank you” to everything on the page that makes us feel happy.
- Can you think of a place that makes you feel very happy? Can you name three things that are found in this place to which you'd like to say thank you?
- When is it good to say thank you? Why should we say thank you?



IMAGINE

how values will come to life

Art

Take clay or an easel and paint outdoors to inspire natural art.

Math

Can you meet the 100 blessings a day (or week or month) challenge? Keep a tally of what you and your students are thankful for.

Gross motor

Play a game of “*Todah*/thank you” freeze tag. Play music and ask the children to freeze whenever the song stops. Then tap one or several students on the head, asking them to say “*todah*” for something for which they are thankful. Continue dancing and freezing until every child has had a chance to offer thanks. Look for PJ Library thank-you songs here: bit.ly/thank-you-songs.

Science

Bring binoculars and magnifying glasses outside to look for and examine the world’s wonders.

How will your environment reflect the value of gratitude?



ENGAGE FAMILIES

in conversations about values

How can you deepen home-school relationships?

Gratitude wall

Place a stack of blank index cards and a container of markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc. on a table. Encourage families to write a few words and draw a quick image of something for which they are thankful, and then attach their card to the wall. Periodically review the cards that adorn the wall and ask children help you figure out ways to group the words by categories.

Rose and thorn

At the end of each day invite families to share their “rose” and “thorn” of the day — a high point followed by a low. For a more advanced version of the game, see if you can come up with a way to view the thorn in a more positive manner. (I fell in a puddle, but when I came back inside, I changed into dry clothes and realized how good it felt to be warm.)

MORE ON THIS TOPIC

PJ LIBRARY BOOKS

The Shabbat Puppy
by Leslie Kimmelman

The Little, Little House
by Jessica Souhami

WEB ARTICLE

pjlibrary.org/gratitude