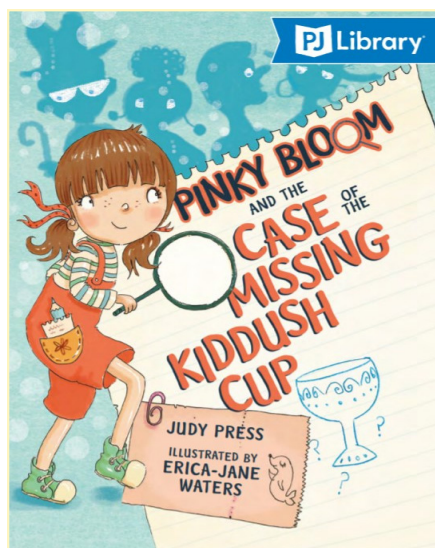


Pinky Bloom and the Case of the Missing Kiddush Cup

written by
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illustrated by
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How do you solve problems?



HANDS ON!

Hamsa Time!

Create your own version of this ancient Middle Eastern symbol of good luck.

Lay your hand flat on a piece of paper, with fingers close together. Using a pencil or marker, trace around your hand. Then decorate with your favorite colors or fill in with stickers for a cool collage effect.

You can add elements such as:

a picture of an evil eye (this is supposed to keep the ayin hara away!)

your favorite number (if you have one)

the word chai (life) in Hebrew

a symmetrical pattern

anything that makes you feel lucky

Hang your hamsa on the fridge so everyone can enjoy a little extra luck!

In a New York Minute

Penina “Pinky” Bloom calls herself “Brooklyn’s greatest kid detective.” Her sleuthing job takes her from her neighborhood out to the New York Aquarium on Coney Island and back. Another New York landmark that features in the book is the Jewish Museum, where you can view Jewish objects (like the ones that mysteriously disappear in this story!) from all around the world. Museums like this help to show how Jews have celebrated their faith in other places and times — like Pinky’s Great-Grandma Bloom in “the old country” — as well as how Jews are creating new artistic expressions today. Good thing Pinky is on the case and is determined to return the missing items to their proper place. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/pinkybloomkiddushcup.

Peace in the Home

Pinky’s brother Avi is usually Pinky’s top suspect when things go wrong, like her alarm clock beeping too early. However, he is very proud of being his detective sister’s “helper” and actually ends up discovering two big clues in the case of the missing kiddush cup. When Pinky realizes Avi didn’t mess with her alarm clock after all, she apologizes to him. She is practicing the Jewish value of shalom bayit, keeping peace in her home, by reaching out to her brother and admitting she was wrong. Now that they’re a crime-fighting team, the next sleepover in Pinky’s room might not be so bad!

Find Your Fortune

Pinky Bloom’s story features many different symbols of luck. Pinky has her “good-luck necklace” featuring the Hebrew word chai (“life”), a present from Grandma Phyllis. Madame Olga wears a hand pendant known as a hamesh or hamsa, an ancient motif in many Middle Eastern cultures. Amulets like these are said to protect from ayin hara, Hebrew for the “evil eye.” Other symbols of luck in this book include the carp, a fish that in Chinese culture brings “riches and success,” according to Pinky’s friend Lucy; and the fortune cookies served at the Lotus Blossom restaurant. Even Avi’s attempts to walk on the sidewalk without stepping on a crack represent a way of trying to avoid bad luck. We may not truly be able to change our luck, but that doesn’t stop us from trying!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

SOME of the characters in this story are not who they appear to be. Can you name two, and explain why?

WHAT makes Pinky Bloom a successful detective?

IF you could give a fortune cookie to each person in your family, what would the fortunes say?