

# Grandma Rose's Magic

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{ What's magical about kindness? }

## The Secret Ingredient

There's no secret to Grandma Rose's magic—it's *chesed*, or kindness. *Chesed* is among the most important Jewish values. According to *Pirkei Avot* (an ancient collection of rabbinic sayings), "The world rests upon three things: Torah, service to God, and acts of loving-kindness" (*Pirkei Avot* 1:2). *Gemilut chasadim*, extending acts of loving-kindness, includes visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, and providing for those in need. As Grandma Rose shows, acts of loving-kindness are part of living a Jewish life.

## Reach Out and Touch Someone

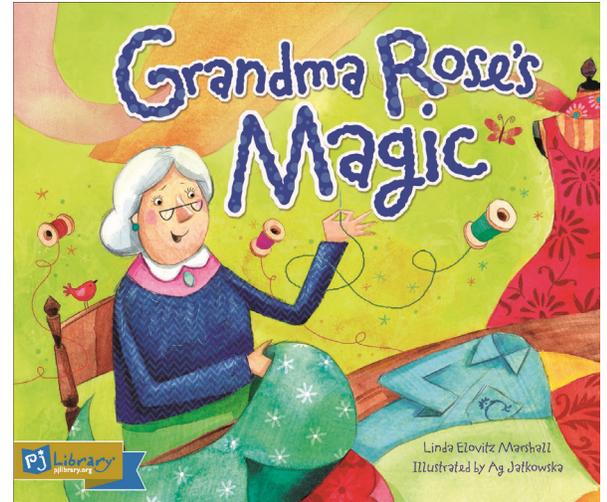
Grandma Rose does more than just demonstrate kindness. Without even being aware of it, she gathers her family and her community together. *Kehillah* (community) is central to Jewish living, as no one can survive in isolation. And Grandma Rose is setting a powerful example: As her children and grandchildren watch, she passes *l'dor vador* (from generation to generation) the importance of helping others. To learn more about *gemilut chasadim*, *kehillah*, and the concept of *l'dor vador*, visit [pjlibrary.org/grandmarose](http://pjlibrary.org/grandmarose).

## Grandma's Special Touch

With each new shirt, skirt, or tablecloth she sews, Grandma Rose adds something extra—something to bring *simcha* (joy) to each recipient. Grandma Rose is applying the principle of *hiddur mitzvah* (beautifying a commandment or good deed). The result? All her friends and family are inspired to do something unexpected and kind for Grandma Rose, too. In Hebrew, this phenomenon is known as *mitzvah goreret mitzvah*—one good deed leads to another. And that's pretty magical. journey easy and fun for the whole family.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

- H**ow do you show kindness?
- D**o you own objects with "kindness stories" behind them?
- C**an you find all the "magical" details Grandma Rose adds?



## HANDS ON!

### Make a No-Sew Pillow

Want to make Grandma Rose's kind of magic? Here's a simple pillow project anyone can tackle. When you're done, consider giving the pillow to someone who could use a little extra kindness.

### Supplies

Small pillow form  
Fleece fabric  
Scissors



- 1** Cut fleece into two squares, each square a little larger than the pillow form. Leave an extra 3 inches (7.5 cm) or so on all sides. 
- 2** Now cut fringes on all sides. Each fringe should be about the length and width of your index finger. 
- 3** Place the two pieces of fleece on top of each other. (If your fleece is patterned, make sure the pattern faces out on both sides.) Knot together the fringes of the first square to the corresponding fringes on the second square. Continue until three sides of the pillowcase are done. 
- 4** Insert the pillow form into the pillowcase, then knot together the fringes on the last side. Voila! 