

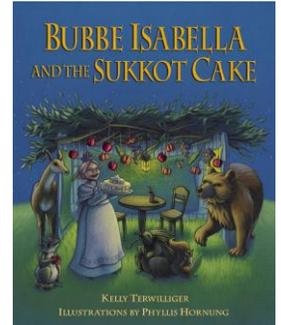
Read the PJ Library Book

Bubbe Isabella and the Sukkot Cake (3s)

Written by Kelly Terwilliger

Illustrated by Phyllis Hornung

Published by Kar-Ben Publishing



Synopsis

Every year Bubbe Isabella builds a sukkah in which to celebrate the harvest holiday of Sukkot. This year she bakes her special lemon cake. Who doesn't love lemon cake? To her dismay, Bubbe's animal guests are more interested in nibbling the sukkah than in trying her wonderful dessert.

Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Welcoming guests/*Hach-na-sat* or *-chim* - הַכְנִסַת אֹרְחִים

Generosity - *Ne-di-vut* - נְדִיבוּת

Introducing the value of welcoming guests *Hachnasat orchim*

From Jewish teachings

Welcoming guests is a time honored tradition in Judaism. The Talmud, a book of Jewish law and wisdom, notes that welcoming guests is even more important than studying Torah or worshipping God (Shabbat 127a). The beloved Jewish scholar and philosopher Maimonides insists that it is only in the presence of guests that one can experience the true joys of a holiday. A popular practice is to welcome a different Biblical guest, known by the Aramaic term *ushpezin* (guests), into the sukkah each night of Sukkot.

For the teacher

- Some delight in welcoming guests into the classroom, while others see it as a distraction. How do you feel when guests drop by your home or classroom? Do you react differently to surprise visitors than to expected guests?
- What are the rewards and challenges to visitors coming into your classroom?
- What changes could you make to your classroom's routines or environment to help the room feel more welcoming to guests of different ages and abilities?

Questions for children

- How does Bubbe Isabella help her guests feel welcomed and comfortable in her sukkah?
- What do you do in your home to help guests feel welcomed?
- It is a custom to invite a different guest into the sukkah each day/night of Sukkot. If you had a sukkah who would you want to invite and why?



Introducing the value of generosity Nedivut

From Jewish teachings

A common Hebrew expression for generosity is *nedivut lev*, literally a willing heart. Giving wholeheartedly is what distinguishes *nedivut* from ordinary giving. The term *nedivut* first appears in the Bible in Exodus (35:5) when the Jewish people are asked to donate gifts for the building of the *mishkan*, the tent of worship used in the desert. The people give with such willingness that there is soon a surplus of gifts, and Moses must beg the people to stop giving.

For the teacher

- Think about a generous act that you have recently performed. In what ways was it easy to be generous? In what ways was it difficult?
- Who are your role models of generosity?
- How do you model generosity within the classroom?
 - What are some generous acts that you would like to see the children perform in your class or at home?



Questions for children

- The English word generous means giving eagerly to others, and even more than necessary. In what ways is Bubbe Isabella generous? What does she enthusiastically give to others?
- Do you know anyone who is generous and loves to give to others? Who is this person and what do they love to give?
- Can you describe a time when you were generous and readily shared or happily helped someone else? How did it feel when you were being generous?

Imagine your community living these Jewish values.

**How would your classroom change?
How will the books and values come to life?**

In the Classroom / Centers

☆ **Hachnasat orchim/welcoming guests:**

If your school has an **outdoor sukkah**, ask the children to think of how to make guest feel welcome when they visit. They might suggest a welcome mat, yummy snacks, or comfy chairs. If your school lacks a sukkah, perhaps you can enlist the help of your families to build one.

☆ **Hachnasat orchim/welcoming guests:** Let the children host small parties in your **dramatic play** area. Help them think through how to prepare for guests, at home and at school. What toys do they like to share? What toys are hard to share with others?

☆ **Nedivut/generosity:** Each day, perhaps at **afternoon meeting**, challenge the class to see if they can describe three generous acts that they witnessed over the course of the school day. Consider recording these acts in a classroom generosity journal.

☆ **Nedivut/generosity:** Have children act out a list of gestures (things they can do without words) to help others and/or make them feel happy. Examples are smile, blow a kiss, give a hug, pour a glass of juice for a friend, etc. Play a game where one child performs a gesture of generosity and the whole class labels the action and repeats it.



Engage the families in your community

How can you involve families and deepen home-school relationships?



Generosity challenge

Challenge families to create a group list of 100 or more generous acts that families with young children can easily perform. Using sticky notes, have families jot down their suggestions and affix them to a wall or piece of mural paper as they enter or leave school. At the beginning or end of each day, remove any duplicate suggestions, and place a number next to each new suggestion. How long will it take families to reach 100? What graphic will represent your progress?

Walk of fame for welcoming guests

Invite guests to sign a star poster. Laminate them and line your hallways to create your own Hollywood-style walk of fame.

At Home

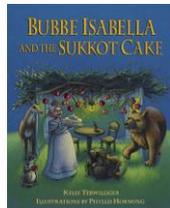
See below for a mini-newsletter about this book. Cut on the dotted line to send directly to families or copy any part for your website or electronic communications.



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Every evening of Sukkot, Bubbe Isabella invites animal friends to visit her sukkah and enjoy her lemon cake. Bubbe's guests are more interested in nibbling the sukkah than sampling her wonderful dessert, yet she happily indulges her guests.

DISCUSS Jewish values

Welcoming guests - *Hach-na-sat* or *-chim*

Jewish sages suggest that hosting guests enhances the joy of Jewish holiday celebrations.

- ☆ How do we help guests feel comfortable and welcome in our home?

Generosity - *Ne-di-vot*

Generosity implies giving willingly and eagerly, and sometimes more than necessary.

- ☆ Who are some generous people our family knows? What makes them so generous?

DO fun stuff at home



Generosity project

Bake a batch of cookies for unsuspecting friends or neighbors. How do they react to their gifts?

MORE resources

Welcoming guests, Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pjgts/welcoming-guests-books-and-activities/>

Inspiring generosity in children:

<http://bit.ly/generosity-children>