

Kishka for Koppel

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What Makes You Feel Rich?

If I Were a Rich Man

For Koppel and Yetta, the idea of being rich conjures up images of gold and jewels...at least at first. But traditional Jewish teachings take a different view of wealth and success. *Pirkei Avot* (*Ethics of the Ancestors*, a collection of rabbinic wisdom) says, “Who is rich? Those who are happy with what they have.” Easier said than done, right? Many of us have a running wish list in our minds of things that would make us happy *if only* we had them. This story delivers a big lesson in gratitude, and from the most unlikely of places. In the end, family — which is held up as one of the greatest treasures in Jewish culture — is one of the things that actually makes us feel the most rich.

A Wise Guy, Eh?

But wait — *Pirkei Avot* isn't finished with us yet. The same chapter also tells us, “Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone.” In this story, “everyone” even includes a talking meat grinder! When the grinder calls them out on their foolishness, Koppel and Yetta are finally able to listen. In doing so, they come to see that the richest people are those who are content with what they have. Thankfully, we don't need to go through crazy experiences like the ones in this book in order to take the same lesson to heart.

Jewish Aladdin

Does the idea of three wishes delivered by a genie or a magical object sound familiar? It's a theme found in many folktales around the world, perhaps most famously in the story of Aladdin. This book takes a very Jewish turn, however, when food comes into the picture! When Koppel gets hungry, he thinks of *kishka*, a traditional Eastern European Jewish food, just like his grandmother used to make. And, well...“You are what you eat” (or wish you could eat) takes on a whole new meaning. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/kishkaforkoppel.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

If you had three wishes, what would you wish for?

What do you think it means when people say “Be careful what you wish for”?

What everyday things do you feel grateful for in your life?

KISHKA for KOPPE



AUBREY DAVIS illustrations by SHELDON COHEN

HANDS ON!

Start a Gratitude Journal



Start a gratitude journal with your kids.

Each child can have his or her own, or make one journal for the whole family.

Supplies

Journal or notebook
Colorful pens
Stickers (optional)



Choose a pretty journal or decorate a notebook with some stickers or other art supplies. Using some fun, colorful pens, encourage your kids to write down at least one thing that they are grateful for each day. Pick a time of day to do this. You can kick off the day by journaling in the morning, or journal at dinner time and then share your thoughts with your family. Bedtime is also a lovely time to journal — it will help you appreciate the day as it comes to a close.