

Read the PJ Library Book

Adam's Animals (4s)

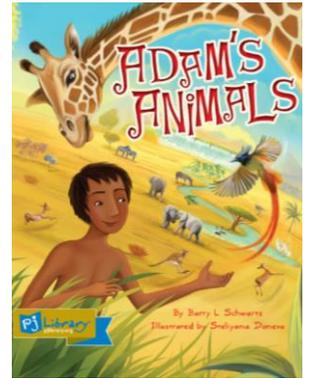
Written by Barry Schwartz

Illustrated by Steliyana Doneva

Published by Little, Brown and Company

Synopsis

In this beautifully illustrated imagining of the Garden of Eden, we watch as Adam lines up all of the animals to give them names. Animals from A to Z fill the pages, some of whom are happy with their new monikers, others less so.



Discuss the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Significance of names/*Le-kol ish yesh shem* - לכל איש יש שם

Love of nature/*a-ha-vat ha-bri-yot* - אהבת הברייות

Introducing the value of significance of names *Lekol ish yesh shem*

From Jewish teachings

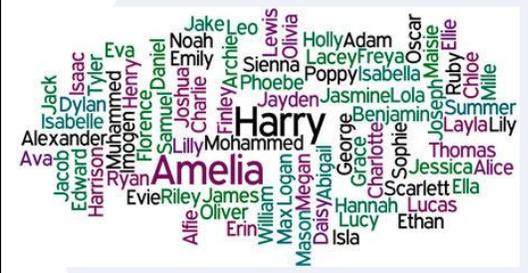
Judaism teaches that names hold significance and require thoughtfulness. According to legend (*Bereisheit Rabbah* 17:4), God asked Adam to name the animals so that the angels would understand human's potential for wisdom and godliness. Adam then looked into the essence of every creature and named each accordingly. By successfully naming the animals, Adam passed the power and creativity of labeling, both positive and negative, on to future generations.

For the teacher

- In what ways does your name reflect who you are?
- Consider names or nicknames you have given to people or pets. How did you choose those names? Do they have hidden meaning?
- What aspects of naming, or name-calling, do you want to explore with your students?

Questions for children

- Do you know any stories about how or why your family chose your name?
- If you could choose your own name, what would you choose and why?
- Why do people have different names? What would happen if everyone had the same name?



Introducing the value of love of nature *Ahavat habriyot*

From Jewish teachings

Love of nature is one of humankind's first obligations. In the story of creation, in addition to naming all the animals, Adam is commanded to "work and guard the earth" (Genesis 2:15). A famous *midrash* (legend) envisions God leading Adam through the Garden of Eden, instructing him, "Do not spoil or damage the world, for if you do there will be no one after you to repair it" (Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13).



For the teacher

- Which aspects of nature do you particularly enjoy?
- What do you think may be barriers to teaching children to love nature?
- How might you incorporate more of the natural world into your classroom and curriculum?
- How do you support and encourage your students to appreciate and take care of the gifts of nature?

Questions for children

- Can you find one animal in this book that interests you? What would you like to find out about this animal?
- Once Adam names the animals, he takes on the responsibility to take care of them. What can we do as a class to help take care of the world and its creatures?
- In which ways does the world seen in the pictures in *Adam's Animals* look different from the world that we live in today?



Imagine your community living these Jewish values.

**How would your classroom change?
How will families be involved?**

In the Classroom / Centers

- ☆ **Lekol ish yesh shem/significance of names:** During **outdoor play** have each child find something that has the same first letter as their name. Help them make the connection by having each child say something along the lines of "My name is Sarah and this is the slide. Both words start with "S." Encourage the children to draw the letter and/or object in the sand box or with stones and twigs.
- ☆ **Lekol ish yesh shem/significance of names:** Turn the spelling of names into a **math** activity. Investigate the number of letters in everyone's name, or see how many people have names that start with the same letter. Track your finding using a **graph**, a **chart** or **cubes**.
- ☆ **Ahavat habriyot/love of nature:** Work on bringing the **indoors outside**. Think of an activity you usually do inside the classroom, and take it out on the playground or lawn. How is it different when you read a book outside? Try bringing some of the classroom's favorite inside toys, such as blocks or dolls, outside. How do the materials interact with nature?
- ☆ **Ahavat habriyot/love of nature:** Now think about **bringing the outdoors inside**. Use materials found in nature for **art** by doing a leaf rubbing or using a pinecone as a stamp. Enhance your **dramatic play** area by adding real flowers and branches. Make ink for your literacy center from berries or grass.



Engage the families in your community

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



Name that Animal/Animal Collage

Ask families to talk about what their favorite animals are, and have them bring in pictures (photographs or drawings) of those animals to add to a class animal collage. As the collage grows, ask students to name the new animals and recall the conversations their families had when choosing favorites.

Respect for Nature and Creatures

At a back to school night or school Shabbat, talk with families about steps we can take to protect our environment and the animals living in it. Afterwards, send home these suggestions to families and be sure to check in about what everyone is doing.



At Home

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

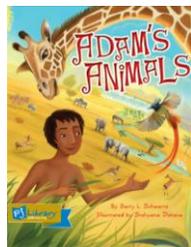


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Adam's Animals

Written by Barry Schwartz
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In this retelling of the story of the Creation, Adam names all of the in the Garden of Eden. We meet some of our favorite creatures, as well as new ones we may never have heard of.



DISCUSS Jewish values

Significance of Names/lekol ish yesh shem

In Judaism names convey meaning; the act of naming requires thought and care.

- Tell your children about the origin of their names.

Love of nature/Kavod Habriyot

Respect for all living things involves safeguarding and loving all of nature.

- What are 3 things we're doing to help our planet? What are 3 more things we could do?



DO fun stuff at home

Animals in your car



Play the classic "I'm going on a picnic" alphabet memory game, but have it take place in the Garden of Eden. How many alphabetized animals can you name and remember? I'm going to the Garden of Eden, and I will meet an Aardvark, a Bear, a Cockatiel...

MORE resources

Children and the outdoors:

<http://bit.ly/Children-nature>

Jewish baby names: <http://bit.ly/Jewish-baby-names>

Nature and names craft: <http://bit.ly/names-craft>