



FEIVEL'S FLYING HORSES

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Feivel's wife and children stay in the Old Country while he comes to New York to make a better life for them all. A wood carver, Feivel creates carousel horses for a Coney Island amusement park – all the while working to earn enough to reunite the family.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

In various waves of Jewish immigration – much of it in the 19th and early 20th centuries -- many thousands of adults and children came to the United States, often escaping lives of persecution and searching for freedom. Like Feivel, many left behind their families and gave up everything they knew and loved. Whenever and wherever people seek a better life, sacrifices are inevitable.

Consider:

- What sacrifices did Feivel make? In what ways were they different from those his family must have made? Do you think what the family gave up was worth what they eventually gained?
- What differences do you see between the “old country” Feivel left behind and New York City? Would those differences be easy to become accustomed to or difficult to accept?
- What feelings might children naturally have when a parent is away for a long time?

The ancient Israelites left Egypt after many years of slavery and persecution. Wandering in the desert, they sometimes became discouraged and wanted to return to Egypt.

- Do you think Feivel ever considered giving up his dream and going back to his former home?

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Family has always taken a place of high honor in Jewish life. During their separation, Feivel keeps his loved ones close to his heart through his carousel carvings, each one representing a family member. In what ways does your family keep in touch? Consider the Jewish year as a springboard for maintaining contacts.

- Encourage your children to send an illustrated *Rosh Hashanah* greeting to loved ones, wishing them a sweet New Year.
- Celebrate the harvest holiday of *Sukkot* with recipes based on typically fall produce, such as squash and root vegetables. Share the most successful recipes online with your extended family – and perhaps include a photo of your children helping try out the recipes.
- Celebrate light during the shortest days of the year through a family project of making and sending candles at *Hanukkah*.
- Model a “green” way of living by a phone call or e-mail at the New Year of the Trees, *Tu B'Shevat*.
- Commemorate freedom and springtime at Passover by sending family photos from a local petting zoo or of the year's first blooming flowers in your neighborhood.