

# A Sweet Meeting on Mimouna Night

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{ What can we share with our neighbors? }



## HANDS ON!

### Make Flour Flowers

When Miriam admires the flowers that grow at Jasmine's house, her mother says that she can grow one from a clipping. In the meantime, maybe Miriam could borrow a little of the flour Jasmine's family gave her and use it to make a salt-dough flower.

2 cups flour  
 ½ cup salt  
 ¾ cups water  
 Large bowl  
 Wax paper

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. When a sticky dough forms, turn it onto a lightly floured countertop and knead it until it's smooth.

Divide your dough into small balls and press them flat into circles. On a piece of wax paper, arrange the circles into a wreath, overlapping them slightly, and then press another circle into the center. Use a pencil or skewer to press little holes into the center to create "seeds."

### A Vibrant Community

For many, the day after Passover is an ordinary day. Not for Miriam and her mother, though! They celebrate Mimouna because they are Moroccan Jews. Jews settled in Morocco soon after the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE, and the population grew substantially after the Spanish Inquisition, when many Sephardim (Jews of Spanish and Portuguese descent) moved to North Africa and elsewhere. After the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, many Moroccan Jews immigrated to Israel, just like Miriam and her mother. Only a handful of Jews live in Morocco today, but the rich culture of the Moroccan Jewish community still thrives -- and so does the joyous "return-to-dough" celebration of Mimouna.

### A Welcoming Tradition

In this story, Jasmine's mother happily welcomes Miriam's mother into her home, and Miriam's mother returns the favor. Welcoming guests (hachnasat orchim in Hebrew) is an important Jewish value, and Passover is among the most welcoming of holidays. A famous line from the Passover seder (ritual meal) is, "Let all who are hungry come and eat!" Both Passover and Mimouna are all about hope and freedom, not just for ourselves but for everyone.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**TAKE** a close look at the illustrations. How is Miriam's Moroccan house similar to your home? How is it different?

**MIRIAM** is shy when she first meets Jasmine. Do you ever feel shy when you meet new people? When have you felt that way? What did you do?

**IF** you weren't eating dough during Passover, what food would you look forward to eating on Mimouna?