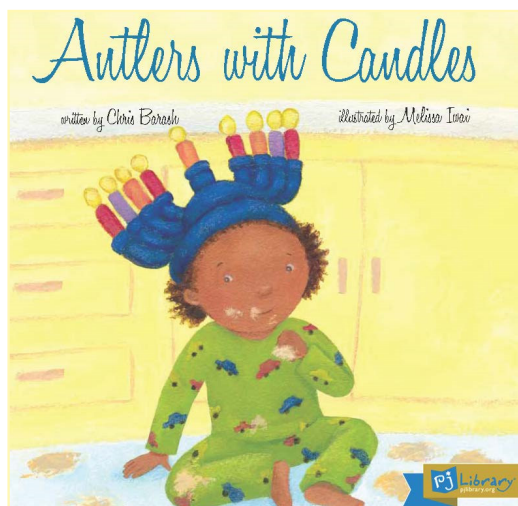


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{ How do holidays bring warmth? }

Wintertime Warm-Up

Hanukkah falls in the Hebrew month of *Kislev* (late November–December), when the days are shortest. Lighting the Hanukkah menorah (in Hebrew, a *hanukkiyah*) for each of the eight nights of the holiday reminds us of the Maccabees’ miraculous victory as they stood up like candles against the darkness of oppression. It also warms our hearts and lights up our homes. The family in this book shows us the coziness of Hanukkah with plenty of warm moments – eating fried foods as a reminder of the miracle of the oil (latkes, anyone?), playing dreidel, and singing songs. Who cares if the sun sets early? It just means another night of Hanukkah cheer is here.

Spread the Light

One can learn about Hanukkah rituals by looking closely at the family in this book. When they light their menorah, they put the candles in starting from the right. But don’t be fooled! As you add an additional candle for each night of the holiday, always light the newest one first, lighting from left to right. They also use the *shamash* – the helper candle – to light all the other candles. The *shamash* is kept separate in some way, often sitting higher than the other candles. Finally, the family has a collection box for *tzedakah* (Hebrew for “justice,” but often used to mean charitable giving) placed nearby as a reminder to spread the light of Hanukkah to those in need. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/antlers.

I Have a Little Dreidel...

When the little guy in this book spots a “funny, pointy” block, his dad explains that this is a dreidel (*sevivon* in Hebrew). A dreidel has a different Hebrew letter on each of its sides that help us play a well-known Hanukkah game. If a spinning dreidel falls on *gimel*, the player takes all of the pot, which is often chocolate *gelt* (coins), pennies, or buttons, as in this book. *Hey* means you take half of the pot. You’re out of luck if you get a *nun*; you don’t take anything. And *shin* means you have to put a piece of gelt (or a penny, or a button) back in the pot. The dreidel’s letters stand for *nes gadol haya sham*, which is Hebrew for “a great miracle happened there” – “there” meaning ancient Israel. (If you’re friends with a moose, be sure to explain that it isn’t “moose gadol haya sham”! He might think this holiday is all about him.)

HANDS ON!

Make a Shiny Menorah Poster



Supplies

- Aluminum foil
- Marker
- Scissors
- Glue
- Poster board
- Glitter pens/paint/glue



Help your child place both hands side by side on a piece of foil. Position the hands so that the thumbs overlap. Trace around the hands with the marker and cut them out as one continuous piece. Glue the tinfoil hands onto a piece of poster board. Each finger serves as a “candle” on your menorah (the two thumbs make one candle – the *shamash*). Use some glittery art supplies, like glitter pens, paint, or glue, to create a flame on top of each “candle,” then place your poster in your window to help decorate your home for Hanukkah.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

CAN we learn something from a mess?

HOW can Hanukkah customs help other people?

WHAT things can you do year round to help light up someone’s day?