

# Resource Guide

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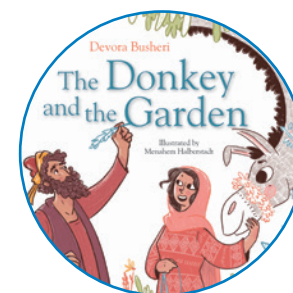
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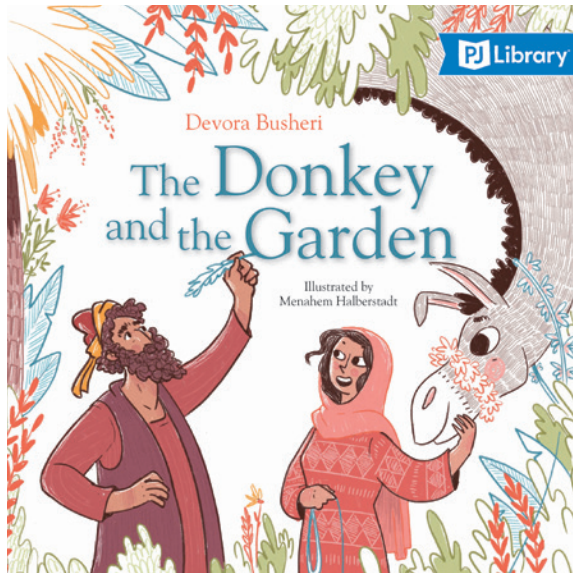
## The Donkey and the Garden

We understand that how we gather looks different these days. Whether you are coming together in person or online, PJ Library will continue to provide content to connect with your community. Inside you'll find ways to:



- Use Jewish text in everyday occurrences
- Make meaningful connections to families through Jewish values
- Enrich learning experiences for all ages





## The Donkey and the Garden

Written by: Devora Busheri

Illustrated by: Menahem Halberstadt

Akiva the shepherd is 40 years old – and is still illiterate. In a creative way, his wife, Rachel, helps him overcome his embarrassment, and join a group of children as they learn to read and write.

### Lifelong Learning

Children are learning new things all the time, but adults are often afraid to attempt something new. Read this book in your next adult education session and take some inspiration from Rabbi Akiva, who, even when he feared embarrassment, pursued learning. Ask participants to share things they'd like to master. See if anyone's interests align, it's always great to have a buddy when learning something new. Find other members of your community who could teach these new skills.

### Together Time

So many families are learning together at home in ways they never would have expected because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. PJ Library continues to create new resources that address this new dynamic for families spending more time together at home. Share these great suggestions with the families in your community: [www.pjlibrary.org/familyactivities](http://www.pjlibrary.org/familyactivities)

### Once Upon a Time...

This book concludes with characters telling their own short "Once Upon a Time" Stories. Use this as inspiration for a social media campaign where people can share their "Once Upon a Time at [YOUR ORGANIZATION]" tales. Create a hashtag and ask people to share what they've learned with you over the years in short videos or a few lines of text. Build on this activity and have people share these stories the next time you gather (in person or online) to celebrate Shabbat, Havdallah or at another time you come together.

### Family Education

In the Midrash that this story is based on, Rabbi Akiva and his son learned together, side by side. Perhaps this can serve as the foundational text for the importance of family education. When children learn together with their grownups, the adults are modeling the value of learning in their family and the children often have the opportunity to be the ones to teach the older folks something new. Read this book together with a group of children and their families before jumping into some Torah study of your own.

### For more about Rabbi Akiva:

[www.pjfor.me/MJLakiva](http://www.pjfor.me/MJLakiva)

### For another book featuring Rabbi Akiva:

[www.pjfor.me/PJSigns](http://www.pjfor.me/PJSigns)