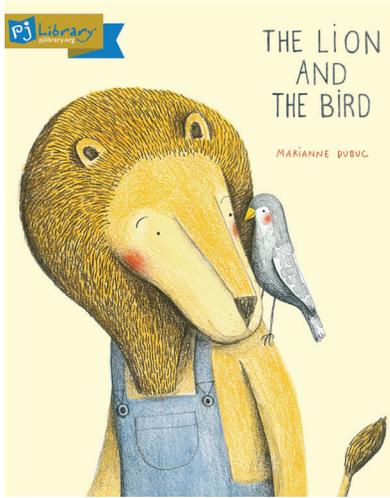


BIG QUESTION

What does kindness look like?



The Lion and the Bird
Written and Illustrated
by Marianne Dubuc
Published by Enchanted Lion Books



Kindness - *Che-sed* - **חסד**



Read

the book for Jewish values

Pirkei Avot, a collection of rabbinic commentaries on ethics, states: “The world stands on three things: on Torah, on service, and on acts of loving kindness” (1:2). Some interpret this to mean the world would cease to exist without kindness. An 18th century Torah commentary titled *Me’am Lo’ez*, written in the local language of Ladino, notes that acts of loving kindness refer to unselfish actions performed without thought of reward or for those who may never be able to return the kindness. Classic acts of kindness found in this book include healing the sick, welcoming guests, and providing food or clothing for those in need.

Optional storytelling technique

Place a shoebox of Lion’s tools for kindness on the floor. Unpack the box to show a slipper, hat, plate, gauze bandage, and blanket. Ask how these objects might be used to show kindness (including the shoebox itself). As you read the story, see when children notice the objects being used and how they exemplify kindness.



Discuss

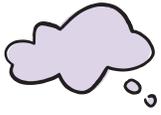
Jewish values with one another

For the teacher’s consideration

- What types of kindness do you most often perform for others? Do you think it’s important for students to know about acts of kindness that you routinely try to do? Why or why not?
- How is kindness reflected in your school community?
- How can you help children assess whether their acts of kindness have truly helped others?

Questions for children

- What acts of kindness does Lion perform for Bird? What acts of kindness does Bird do for Lion?
- Lion takes care of Bird when Bird’s wing is injured. Have you ever helped someone who was hurt? What did you do?
- Why does Bird fly away with his bird friends in the summer? What do you think about that?
- What are some kind acts that we can perform in our classroom? In our school?



Imagine

how values will come to life

Social studies

Start a series of kindness adventures. Consider the staff and spaces in your building. How would your students show kindness to the office staff, maintenance staff, other classrooms, or people who use the playground?



Math and science

Together with your students, research bird feeders and what types of food birds eat. Help them create a variety of bird feeders of their own design.

Small world play

In creating a small world play of this book, how might you represent Lion and Bird other than with a figurine of a lion or bird? Which loose parts or non-representative objects could you use to help children retell this story? Examples might include large and small stones, or a pinecone and acorn. What will your students come up with?



Engage

families in conversations about values

How can you deepen home-school relationships?

Loving kindness anytime, anywhere

As families bring children in for morning drop-off, help them integrate words of loving kindness into their goodbye routine. Set an example by wishing parents a kind and loving day. Post suggestions that encourage kind behavior, such as “Help clean up a mess” or “Serve snack to a friend.”

Kindness suggestion box

Try putting a suggestion box outside your classroom that asks, “What kindness would you like to see your child develop?” Based on reactions, you may send focused articles home or change how you explore kindness in the classroom.

How does your environment support the value of kindness?

Music

Teach your students this simple *refuah sheleima* (literally, complete healing), or get-well song. (pjfor.me/Sing-a-long) The next time one of your students is home sick, arrange for a phone call and serenade the child with the cheerful voices of his/her classmates.



More on this topic

PJ Library books

26 Big Things Small Hands Can Do
by Coleen Paratore

Beautiful Yetta: The Yiddish Chicken by Daniel Pinkwater

Web article

Teaching kindness
bit.ly/welcoming-classroom