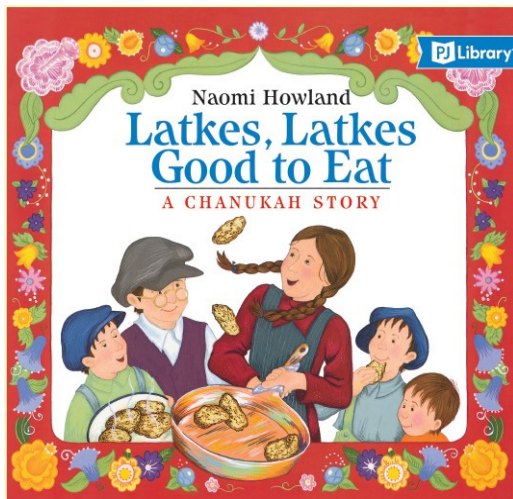


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What magic words do you use?

Miracle of Miracles

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is all about miracles. The first miracle happened in the second century BCE, when a small group of Jews called the Maccabees triumphed over the oppressive Greek-Syrian army. After the battle, when the Jews cleaned up the Holy Temple, they found just enough oil to light the Temple's menorah for one night, but it lasted for eight nights -- enough to get more oil! The frying pan in this story seems pretty miraculous, too. As Sadie and her brothers know, Hanukkah comes at the darkest time of year, around the winter solstice. When we light up the eight nights of Hanukkah, nature seems to get the message, and the days soon start getting longer again. Now that's a miracle! To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/latkeslatkes.

HANDS ON!

Make a Helping Hands Menorah

Drawing a menorah as a Hanukkah decoration is always fun. This menorah is a reminder that being helpful and kind is in all of our hands.

Supplies:
Poster board
Markers
Your hands

Place your hands on the paper with your thumbs tucked in, so that you have eight fingers lined up next to each other with a little extra space in the middle.

Trace around the fingers. These will be the candles for the eight nights of Hanukkah.

Draw a taller candle in the middle. This will be your shamash, the "helper" candle that is used to light other candles on a Hanukkah menorah.

Finish drawing the bottom of your menorah, then decorate it as you wish. Happy Hanukkah!

A Warm Welcome

When Sadie lights the menorah with her siblings, the house fills with light and warmth. She wants to share this with the old woman who helped her. When we practice the mitzvah (Hebrew for "commandment" or good deed) of hachnasat orchim (Hebrew for welcoming guests), we bring light and warmth of a different kind into the world. Sadie's mother is surprised to return to a mountain of latkes, but she understands the concept of mitzvah goreret mitzvah -- one good deed leads to another!

Can You Eat Just One?

Foods fried in oil, like latkes or sufganiyot (donuts), are delicious reminders of the miracle of the oil in the Hanukkah story. Latkes are also pretty easy to make -- although not as easy as using a magical frying pan, which is why Sadie's brothers got themselves into trouble. After disobeying Sadie's instructions and succumbing to temptation, they get off pretty easy, with only aches in their bellies and noise in the backyard, as the entire town feasts on overflow latkes. Sometimes it takes a village!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

IF you had a magic frying pan, what would you want to cook in it?

WHO behaves kindly in this story? What kind acts could you do during Hanukkah?

AT the end of the story, the villagers have a party. How do you like to celebrate on Hanukkah?