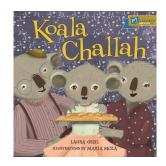


Read the PJ Library Book

Koala Challah (4s)

Written by Laura Gehl Illustrated by Maria Mola Published by Kar-Ben Publishing



Synopsis

Lila wants to help her family prepare for Shabbat, but her attempts result in a huge mess. After careful consideration Lila decides to bake the most delicious challah ever. What do you think is her secret ingredient?

DISCUSS the Jewish values and vocabulary with one another

Perseverance/hat-ma-**da** - רוֹלְעָרָ

Creativity/ye-tzi-ra-ti-yut - אַיֹרָתּלּוּת יִּ

Introducing the value of perseverance Hatmada

From Jewish teachings

Judaism applauds perseverance. The Bible teaches that righteous people may complete a task by "falling seven times but always getting up again" (Proverbs 24:16). More important than attaining an end-goal is one's willingness to keep on working. Pirkei Avot, a classical volume of Jewish ethics, reminds individuals that "You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it" (2:21).

For the teacher

- What types of thoughts and feelings tend to undermine perseverance?
- What do you think are the benefits of developing perseverance in young children?
- How do you currently encourage perseverance within your classroom?



Questions for children

- Even though Lila's first
 attempts at making challah
 didn't come out right, she
 kept on trying. Can you
 describe something that you
 had to do many times before
 you were able to succeed?
- Why is it important to keep on trying even when you don't seem to be succeeding?
- What might be good words to tell yourself whenever you're having trouble doing or learning something new?





Introducing the value of creativity Yetziratiyut

From Jewish teachings

The Torah begins with God artistically creating the world. Humans are then made b'tzelem Elohim, in God's image, which underscores the fact that all people have the ability to create. Examples

The control of the co

Song of the Sea, Visual and lyric poetry of artistry in the Torah include the Song of the Sea, a joyous poem celebrating the safe crossing out of Egypt (Exodus 15:1-18), the

crafting of the *mishkan* (traveling tent of worship), and development of the colorful priestly garments (Exodus chapters 25 and 28).

For the teacher

- What are your creative strengths, and how do you use them to enhance your classroom?
- In addition to artistic talent, creativity can involve finding innovative solutions to problems, connecting diverse ideas in unique ways, and exercising imagination. Which aspects of creativity are readily apparent in your classroom environment?
- What other (new) types of creativity would you like your students to explore and how will you encourage these behaviors?

Questions for children

- Lila wanted to find her own way to help make Shabbat feel special. What new things could we do in our classroom to make Shabbat feel special?
- Lila discovered a way to make her challah taste extra delicious. When we solve a problem, or draw, or paint, or use our imaginations to invent new stories and games, we say that we are being creative. In addition to adding eucalyptus oil to her challah, in what other ways was Lila creative?
- Can you describe something creative that you've done recently?

magine your community living these Jewish values.

How would your classroom change? How will families be involved?

In the Classroom / Centers

- ❖ **Yetziratiyot/creativity:** Set up a **creativity corner** in your classroom. Stock the area with recycled materials and art supplies. You might challenge the children to make an animal or design a new type of vehicle or home. What will the creations look like on a **light table?** Be sure to take photos of the children's innovative creations.
- Yetziratiyot/creativity: Feature materials in your art and science centers that resemble some of the materials that Lila experimented with. For example, provide sheets of beeswax that can be rolled into candles, or a collection of dried flowers and scraps of yarn for collage. Encourage children to conduct experiments with oil. What happens when water and oil are mixed together or when oil is rubbed over a crayon drawing?
 - * Hatmada/perseverance: During outdoor play ask pairs of children to try tapping a balloon so that it passes between them without landing on the ground. Count the number of successful passes. Perform a few trials to see if children can improve their score. Compliment the children on their perseverance.
 - * Hatmada/perseverance: Making butter can serve as a wonderful cooking/science activity that will help children experience the joys of perseverance. Fill a container half way with whipping cream, place a lid on the container and ask the children to take turns shaking the container until it turns to butter.





Engage the families in your community How can you involve families and deepen home-school relationships?

Wait for it...

Set up tables for make-your-own baggie ice cream, either for breakfast (yum!) or for an after school snack. Post a <u>pictorial recipe</u> and provide all of the supplies, such as baggies, half-and-half or soy milk, vanilla, ice, and kosher salt. A large analog clock might be fun, too, to help you keep track of the time. Baggie ice cream requires a considerable amount of perseverance since it involves about eight minutes of shaking before the cream turns to ice cream.



Banner design

Draw on the creativity of your families (pun intended), and encourage everyone to help decorate a large Shabbat Shalom banner that will be displayed in the entrance of the school every Friday. Supply families with many interesting craft materials that can be sewn or glued to the banner. Be sure to have a variety of markers and fabric dyes and paints available as well.

At Home

See below for a mini-newsletter about this book. Cut on the dotted line to send directly to parents, or copy any part for your website or electronic communication with families.





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Longing to participate in her family's Shabbat preparations, Lila takes on the task of making challah. Determined to bake the most delicious challah, Lila spends the entire week perfecting her challah-making skills.

DO fun stuff at home

Puzzle it out



Start a family jigsaw puzzle or building project, such as from <u>Kiwi Crate</u>, that takes several days to complete. Commend one another on

your progress and creativity.

DISCUSS Jewish values

Perseverance- Hat-ma-da

Judaism applauds keeping at a task, even when the chances of completion are small.

☼ How do you feel when you're able to do something new after trying and practicing for a long time?

Creativity- Ye-tzi-ra-ti-yut

Jewish sources encourage us to develop our creative talents in order to leave our own special mark.

☆ What's an activity that you use creativity for? What makes that special for you?

MORE resources

Pay attention to play: http://to.pbs.org/2x0z3nT Growth mindset and perseverance: http://theatln.tc/2hFrqlC



