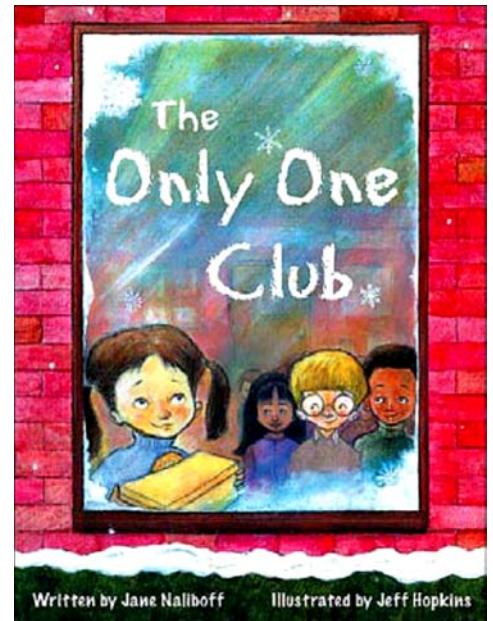


The Only One Club

By Jane Naliboff

Program Focus

Age group: Ages 4-6
Time frame: 45-60 minutes
Central value: Uniqueness (*B'Tzelem Elohim*)
Appreciating Diversity



Synopsis

When Mrs. Matthew's first grade class starts to make Christmas decorations, Jennifer is allowed to make Hanukkah decorations because she is Jewish. As a result, Jennifer decides to create and become the sole member of "The Only One Club." However, she is resistant when her classmates want to join. As the unique qualities of her classmates are revealed, Jennifer realizes that each of her classmates is also "the only one" at something, too! This wonderful story encourages children to embrace their own uniqueness and to actively look for special qualities in others beyond race or culture.

Goals

- Highlight and connect the major themes of this book to daily life
- Promote ways in which children are able to positively see themselves as both very similar to and very different from others.
- Encourage children and adults to consider individual differences among family members, friends, communities, and beyond to celebrate the marvels of diversity

Submitted by

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Plan in advance

Prepare Unique Thumbprint Poster

Materials

- White poster board
- Several washable inkpads of various colors
- Markers
- Wet-wipes
- Pushpins or tape to display poster when complete
- A nametag for each participant, if desired

Advance Preparations

1. Prepare poster board with the word UNIQUE written in bubble letters.
2. Have inkpads, markers, and wet-wipes (and nametags if using) at a table near the entry.



Prepare “The Only One Club” Badges

Materials

- 3” round oak-tag or heavy-weight paper circles
- Washable markers or crayons for writing and decorating the badge
- Pin backings to affix to each badge (one for each badge, and glue to attach them); or rolled masking tape to (temporarily) stick the badge to child’s clothing
- Any small decorative stickers, puffy paints, or glitter glue for decorating

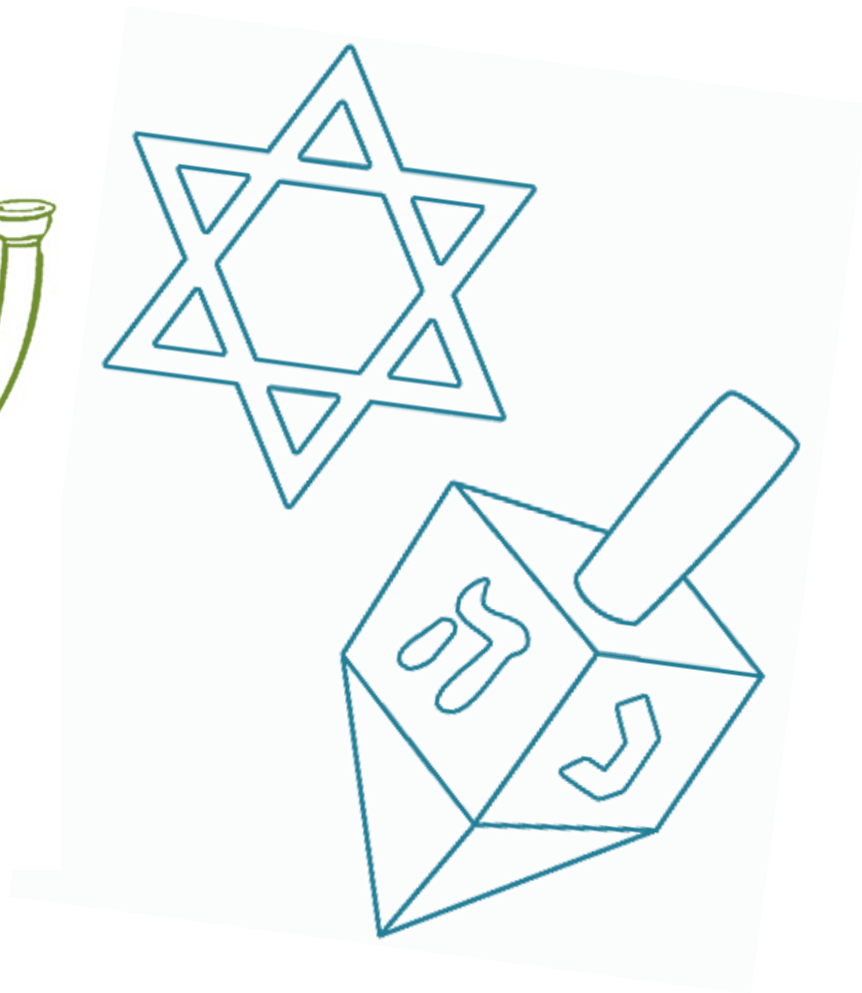
Advanced Preparations

1. Neatly print the words “The Only One Club” on each badge, making sure you have extras.

Prepare “Only One” Family Mobile

Materials

- Poster board in a variety of colors
- Scissors
- Stencils (roughly 3” x 5” in size) of different shapes (Jewish star, dreidel, etc.)
- Colored markers
- Stickers
- Glitter and jewels
- White labels for writing on
- The words ‘Happy Hanukkah’ and ‘____ _ _’ (Hanukah Sameach) to use as guides
- Wire clothes hangers
- String or yarn



Prepare Refrigerator List

Materials

- Pencils or pens
- Copies of “The Only One Club” refrigerator list (see attached)

Introduce with an activity

Make Unique Thumbprint Posters

Directions

1. Direct adults and children to a table where there is a large piece of white poster board on which the word “UNIQUE” is written in large bubble letters.
2. Have available several washable colored stamp pads, washable markers, and wet-wipes (for cleaning inky fingers).
3. Encourage all (including adults) to use their thumb to tap on the stamp pad and use the print to help fill in the letters of the word. They could also use markers, as some may not want to use the stamp pads.
4. When finished, the leader draws everyone to the reading area.



Introduce the Story

Intro Words

*Today, we're going to read a book about a little girl who discovers that in some ways she is very much like her friends but in other ways she isn't. Do you think that's true about all of us? Of course! Each of us is different and special. Each of us is unique- one of a kind. I hope you enjoyed helping to fill in the word UNIQUE on our group poster. Did you know that no two people in the world have the same exact thumbprint? That's one way in which each of us is unique, one of a kind. We're about to find out many more ways in which children and adults can be unique. Let's read *The Only One Club*.*

Read the story

Props

Display the UNIQUE poster where it can be easily seen by all.

Encourage Participation

Notes

You must gauge how much interaction you want to encourage and act accordingly depending on the number of children involved, the space, the age range, whether other adults are present, the time you have allotted for the reading, etc.

- When showing the book's cover, ask: "What can we tell about the book from the cover?"
- After reading the first several pages, ask: "Where are these children?" "What time of year is it? How do you know?"
- When the children are making decorations in the book, ask what decorations/objects are used for Hanukkah.
- At the full-page illustration of the children dressed for cold weather, ask how the children appear similar and different. Point out that people are different from each other in ways that can't be seen as well as in ways that are obvious.
- Ask how the children think Jennifer felt at the beginning of the book and at the end of the book.

Discussion

There are many ways in which people are "The Only One" that have nothing to do with what we look like on the "outside." What ways do you know that people can be different from each other?" I hope it makes each of you feel wonderful to know that you aren't just like anybody else, and that your family and friends love you because you aren't like any other person in the world. You can be a member of The Only One Club, just like all of the children in Jennifer's class. Let's get together in some small groups and talk about ways that we are the Only One.

- Define small groups of children and parents for short discussion.

Follow Up activities and resources

Make “Only One Club” Badges

Intro

Jennifer gave everyone a badge to show that they were members of The Only One Club. Each of you will also have a badge. Your badge shows that you are one-of-a-kind, the “only one” in very special ways (hold up a badge that you have pre-decorated for the children to see). This is the badge I made for myself. I am The Only One because _____. Now you may use these materials to decorate a badge that you can take home with you.

Directions

1. Have each child decorate a badge with the provided materials.
2. Encourage discussion among the participants as they decorate.
3. As children finish, an adult should attach the pin backing.
4. Allow a few minutes for children to mingle, sharing the appearance of their badges.

The Only One Club
I'm the only one who...



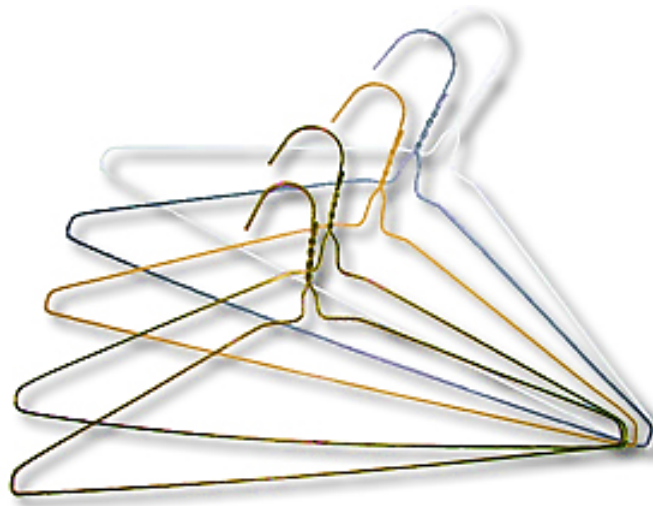
Make “Only One” Family Mobile

Intro

Jennifer learned that each person in the class, including her, was ‘the only one’ of something. There is a Hebrew phrase for this idea- Adam Yehidi Nivrah. Jennifer and her friends learned to appreciate their differences. Is that a good thing to do? Why? Every family has a lot of things that they share; the way they look, the foods they like to eat, or games they like to play. However, I am sure that everyone in each of your families is ‘the only one’ in some special way. Today, you are going to make ‘only one’ mobiles for your families that you can take home and hang up as a special Hanukkah decoration. An important thing about Hanukkah is that it teaches us that it’s okay to be different, especially if it also means doing something we believe in.

Directions

1. Cut out a shape for every member of the family (pets can be included if you’d like).
2. Decorate the shapes (on one side only), and remember to leave some space to write the person’s name and what they are the ‘only one’ of.
3. Punch a hole in each shape and thread the string/yarn through.
4. Take a wire hanger and tie the shapes to it.
5. If they wish, they can use the Hebrew or English ‘Happy Hanukkah’ guides to make a sign to put at the top of the hanger.
6. Suggest putting a picture of each family member on the other side of their ‘only one’ shape when they get home.



Make Refrigerator List

Directions

Show pride in the individuality of everyone in your family. Fill out the list (see attached) for each family member. As new ways present themselves, lengthen each list of things that make each person in your family unique. Be sure to have fun with this!

Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

Add Your Name to the “Only One Club” Online Directory

Go to www.flashlightpress.com/onlyoneclub.html where children can add their name to the long list – which includes this book’s author and illustrator! – and tell what makes them unique. It’s a great list to read aloud. Adults can join in the fun as well!

Plan a “Family Fun Fest of Specialness”

Find a really big piece of paper. Take the paper, markers, and the entire family to the porch, driveway, or living room floor and go acronym-crazy! Write the words: *The Only One Club* (or any phrase you wish that brings individual qualities to mind). Brainstorm words that begin with those letters that represent important and unique traits to mind. C is for Consideration, W stands for Willingness to Help, S can signify Speaks Hebrew, etc. This is sure to bring about great discussion!

“Only One” Family List

Name	I'm the only one who...