

The Parent Connection



Guide for: *Rivka's First Thanksgiving* by Elsa Okon Rael

Child's Name

Date Completed:

Understanding the Story

1. Why does Rivka think Thanksgiving is a Jewish holiday?
2. What connections are there between the Pilgrims and the Jews?
3. From the pictures, can you tell where Rivka lives?
4. Why would Rivka's father go to an English class?

Words to Watch

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| 1. Bubbeh-Grandmother | 7. Rebbetzin-Rabbi's wife |
| 2. Cossack-Russian soldier | 8. Seder-Passover dinner |
| 3. Kotchka-Duck | 9. Sheitl-Ritual wig |
| 4. Mandel-brodt-bread-cake (like biscotti) | 10. Tante-Aunt |
| 5. Pogrom-Organized persecution or massacre | 11. Tsaddik-Righteous individual and learned scholar |
| 6. Zaydeh-Grandfather | |

Jewish Concepts

1. Seder-dinner with symbolic foods.
2. Thanksgiving-roots in Sukkot (harvest festival)
3. Challah-bread eaten on holidays.

Beyond the Book

1. What does Thanksgiving mean to you?
2. What's the difference between celebrating holidays such as Thanksgiving and not celebrating holidays such as Christmas?
3. Explain why a Rabbi would be consulted for important decisions.

Complementary Activities

1. Make traditional Thanksgiving foods such as cranberry sauce and sweet potatoes.
2. Make a list of things for which to be thankful.
3. Teach your child how to say “thank you” in Hebrew (todah rabah).

✓ ***Please check those activities completed.***