

The Parent Connection



Guide for: *The Secret of the Sabbath Fish* by Ben Aronin

Child's Name

Date Completed:

1. Note the kind of woman Tante Mashe is: pious, kind, gives tzedakah, likes to do things for people, hospitable (Jewish values).
2. Why did Tante Mashe say that the gefilte fish is filled with the history of our people?
3. Look at the picture on the inside cover. How does this town look different from where you live?
4. Tante Mashe was a poor woman herself. Why do you think she put money aside for the poor?

Words to Watch

Tante: Yiddish for "Aunt"

Cossacks: Russian soldiers

pogrom: riot organized to harm Jews.

pious

aroma

turmoil

woes

gefilte fish

Jewish Concepts

1. Prophet: Someone sent by God to help Jews be better people
2. Elijah: In legend, the prophet Elijah frequently appears to help people in need.
3. Tzedakah: Righteous giving

Beyond the Book

1. If your family came from Russia or from Europe, tell your child everything you know about your relatives' life there.
2. If the prophet Elijah appeared at your house, what could he bring to you so that you could help the Jewish people?

3. Explain that a folk tale describes how something came to be and that it is passed on from generation to generation. Do you know any other stories that do this? Can you make up one?

Complementary Activities

1. Make a tzedakah box and put money in it each week before Shabbat.
2. Do something for the poor or sick: e.g. visit housing for the elderly or a nursing home. Deliver gifts (mishloah manot) to people in the hospital on Purim.
3. Buy an extra item each week when you do your grocery shopping. Donate the items to a soup kitchen or shelter. Take your child along when you go.
4. Make gefilte fish with your child.
5. Make a special dish with your child and invite a guest for a Shabbat meal.

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