

The Parent Connection



Guide for: *The Treasure* by Uri Shulevitz

Child's Name

Date Completed:

Understanding the Story

This book is adapted from a Hassidic folk tale, though there are no references in the book to the cities of Cracow and Warsaw where it is set. The pictures depict scenes of Eastern Europe (Poland, in particular) and it may be worth speaking about Eastern Europe in the 17 and 1800's. The central moral of the book is a wonderful one for a child: "Sometimes one must travel far to discover what is near." The notion that dreams and wishes can be made real when we look to and inside ourselves, is a wonderful thing for a parent to share with his/her child.

Jewish Concepts

1. Hoda-ah: The concept of thanksgiving. It is worthwhile to note that Isaac, the main character, expresses his gratitude for his good fortune by building a synagogue.

Beyond the Book

1. Relate to your child any dreams of your own that have come true, especially those that came true because, in effect, the potential for them to be made real existed within you all along.
2. Did you ever have a wonderful dream that you can remember? What was it? The theme of this book is similar to that of The Wizard of Oz. It may help to recall that story.
3. Create a dream list or a wish list. Attempt to focus on dreams that are more spiritual and less material (i.e., finding happiness, family time, sharing, etc.).

Complementary Activities

1. Young children love treasure hunts. Create a treasure hunt which winds up in the child's bedroom with the "treasure" being found underneath the child's bed. Discuss the reasons a treasure hunt is so exciting.
2. Begin the creation of a log of hopes by encouraging your child to share his/her dreams and by writing them down in his/her presence in a book which is kept in his/her room.
3. Link the idea of a dream made real with the notion of doing something for others just like the action of Isaac after he finds the treasure when he creates the synagogue. This is the means of making tzedakah (righteous giving) the pleasant association with one's good fortune.

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