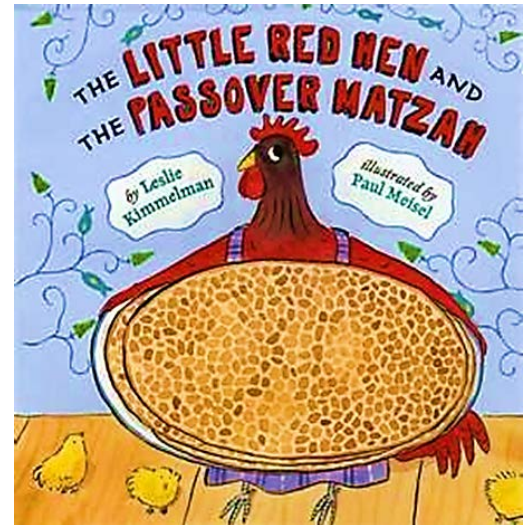


The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzah

By Leslie Kimmelman



STORYWALK™ Focus

Age group: Ages 3-8
 Time frame: 50-90 minutes
 Central value: An exploration of matzah, friendship, and teamwork

Synopsis

This is the classic story of the little, Yiddish-speaking red hen who unsuccessfully attempts to convince her animal friends to help her prepare matzah for the Passover Seder. Although her friends refuse to assist in the planting, harvesting, threshing, and baking of the matzah, they all hope to be invited to the Little Red Hen's Seder. In keeping with the Passover custom of "Letting all who are hungry come to eat", the Little Red Hen overlooks her friends ungracious behaviors and invites them to join her at the Seder. The Seder proves to be an enjoyable and transformative experience for the friends who ultimately abandon their selfish ways and eagerly wash the dishes at the end of the evening.

Goals

- Introduce families to some of the customs and traditions of Passover
- Emphasize the need for friends/family to work together toward a mutually-desired goal
- Highlight the values of friendship (*Reut*), industriousness (*Malacha*), and welcoming guests (*Hachnassat Orchim*)

Submitted by

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Plan in advance

Prepare Story Walk

Location

Choose an inside or outside location that allows for multiple stations and easy navigation.

Materials

- 2-3 copies of *The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzah*
- Laminating machine
- Card stock/poster board
- Glue/glue sticks
- Wooden stakes (for an outdoor location)
- Duct tape
- Markers

Advanced Preparations

1. Gently separate the pages of the book.
2. Tape pages together so that they appear as a double spread (2 copies of book needed).
3. Laminate pages or attach selected double spreads to poster board backings.
4. Attach double spread pictures to wooden stakes, using duct tape (for an outdoor location).
5. Place numbers underneath each double spread page so families read pages in proper order.
6. Place stakes into the ground at intervals following the selected nature trail.
7. For an indoor location, use the duct tape to tape pictures to the walls /hallways of the building where the program is being held (Place a number either above or below each double spread so families read pages in proper order.)

Seed Planting Station

Materials

- Dishwashing bin (one bin filled with soil for each 12-14 families)
- Potting Soil
- Popcorn kernels, yellow split peas, or flower/wheat seeds



Wheat Picking Station

Materials

- Stalks of wheat (can be purchased from a flower supply store)
- Dishwashing bins filled with potting soil

Advanced Preparations

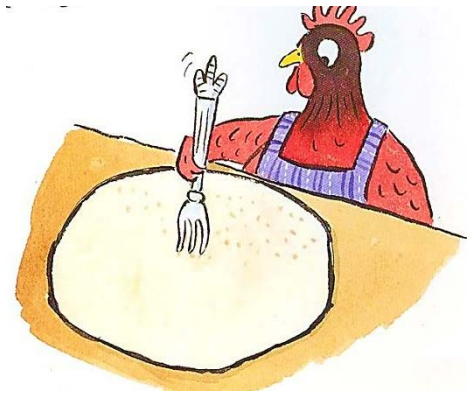
1. Place a layer of potting soil in the bottom of the bin and trim the bottoms of wheat stalks.
2. Poke the stalks into the soil so they stand upright in the soil, appearing as if they are growing in the dishwashing bin.



Matzah Shaping Station

Materials

- Homemade playdough (see attached recipe) OR Homemade matzah dough (This dough more crumbly and a little difficult to work with; unless made with shmura flour, this dough will not technically be considered kosher for Passover. Recipe included at the end of the program)
- Rolling pins or small cans for flattening dough
- Plastic Forks
- Paper Plates
- Large Bowl to hold the matzah dough



Friendship Discussion Station

Materials

- Ballots (see attached)
- Pencils
- Clip boards for writing on
- Shoe box with slit cut on top for submitting ballots



Matzah Tasting Station

Materials

- Matzah (offer a variety of flavors-wheat, salt, egg, etc.)
- Toppings for matzah (butter, cream cheese, charoset)



Prepare Family Job Charts

Materials

- Foam frames (ideally with sticky backs) or large pieces of construction paper, craft foam, or poster board with a piece of lined paper attached to the center of the paper
- Sharpies
- Glue sticks
- Stickers, dot paints/stamps, ink pads, or tissue paper shapes
- Watered-down glue and brushes
- Metal-clip clothespins

Advanced Preparations

1. Make copies of the suggested chores worksheet.
2. Cut the worksheet into strips, one strip per job.
3. Cut out “Our Passover Cleaning Chart” and “Our Weekly Cleaning Chart” labels (see attached).
4. Attach blank lined paper to the frame (or glue lined paper onto a large piece of colored construction paper).

Prepare Matzah Container

Materials

- Poster board or oak tag
- Copy of matzah box insert (see attached)
- Water color paint pallets or liquid water color mixed with water
- Bowls for holding liquid watercolors and/or rinsing paint brushes
- Paint brushes
- Stapler

Advanced Preparations

1. Measure and cut a 12 ½” by 12 ½” piece of poster board/oak tag.
2. Trace a 2 ½ inch margin around all four sides and crease the poster board along the margins (folding towards the center).
3. Bring two ends together to form a triangle and staple the ends.



StoryWalk the story

Introduce the story

Intro Words

Today, you will be going on a very special Story Walk™. On a Story Walk, we read a book, not by turning the pages of the book, but by walking from one page of a book to the next. Each time you come to a new page, a member of your family will pause and read that page aloud. The book that we're reading today is called **The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzah**. As you walk and read, you will meet a Red Hen who is very busy getting ready for the holiday of Passover. The Little Red Hen has 3 very good friends; a Sheep, a Horse, and a Dog, whom she keeps asking for help with her work. Unfortunately, the friends keep forgetting that good friends should help one another. Again and again the friends refuse to help the Little Red Hen, and so the Little Red Hen must do the work "all by herself." As you travel from page to page, we will occasionally ask you to step in and help the Red Hen. Are you ready to begin your Story Walk™ and help the Little Red Hen prepare for Passover?



*Please note: All of these activities are optional. If you choose to include activities in your Story Walk, be sure to post written instructions providing step by step directions for the activity and noting how the activity connects to the book. Sample instructions are included.

Seed Planting Station

Directions

Can you help the Little Red Hen grow the wheat that she will need in order to make her Passover matzah?

1. Poke holes in the soil.
2. Deposit one seed in each hole.
3. Gently push/ sprinkle dirt on top of the seeds.



Wheat Picking Station

Directions

Unlike the Sheep, Horse, and Dog, can you help the Little Red Hen pick and harvest her wheat?

1. Remove the stalks of wheat from the soil.
2. When all the stalks have been removed/picked, please replant the stalks (stand them back up in the soil) so that the next family will have wheat to pick.



Matzah Shaping Station

Directions

Can you shape some dough into Matzah? Today, we're really just pretending to make matzah. (We're not going to bake our matzah.)

1. Reach into the bowl and break off a handful of dough.
2. Roll dough into a ball.
3. Place the ball on a paper plate.
4. Flatten the dough using a rolling pin/can.
5. Once the dough is flat, use a fork to poke it with holes (to insure that the dough will not rise during the cooking/baking period).
6. After you've shaped your matzah, scrunch it with your hand and return the dough to the bowl.



Friendship Discussion Station

Directions

Can you pause for a moment and vote on what action you think The Little Red Hen should take? Should the Little Red Hen invite her friends to join her at her Seder?

1. Please record your vote on the front of the ballot (see attached).
2. On the back of the ballot write a quick note, explaining why you voted as you did.
3. Slip your ballot into the shoe box/ballot box.

Cast Your Vote

Should the Little Red Hen allow the Horse, Sheep, and Dog to come to her Seder?

YES _____

NO _____

On the back of this ballot, please write a quick note explaining why you voted as you did.

Matzah Tasting Station

Directions

As a reward for all the help that you offered the Little Red Hen, please eat some matzah. After you've sampled a few different kinds of matzah and toppings, rate your favorites and compare your choices with other family members.



Follow Up activities and resources

Make Family Job Charts

Intro Words

For much of our story, the Little Red Hen's friends, the Sheep, Horse, and Dog forgot that good friends should always try to help one another, and that jobs become easier when everyone pitches in and helps. Cleaning the house, especially cleaning the house for Passover, is a hard job which requires lots of helpers and team work. Right now, we'd like you to prepare a job chart which will help everyone in your family know exactly what they should do in order to clean the house.

Directions

1. Using dot paints, stickers, etc. decorate foam frames.
2. Decide on a title for your job chart. Using glue sticks, attach label to top or bottom of the frame.
3. Look through task pictures and select 3-4 tasks which you would like family members to perform (feel free to write in your own tasks!)
4. Using a glue stick, attach labels onto chart.
5. Using markers, write family member names on clothespins, one name per clothespin.
6. Decide who in the family will receive each job. Clothespin the family member's name next to the task which she/he has been assigned.
7. At home, when a task has been completed, the person who completed the task can move the clothespin from left hand side to the right hand side.



Make a Matzah Container

Intro Words

At this station, you will create a beautiful matzah box, which is designed to hold the matzahs (matzot) which will be eaten at the Passover Seder. The bottom of the matzah holder displays a famous quote from the haggadah (the book which we read at the Seder) stating "Let all who are hungry, come and eat." These important words remind us that we, like The Little Red Hen, must try to feed all those who are in need, and that we should try to invite as many guests as possible to our Seder.

Directions

1. Using watercolors, paint matzah box insert and outer sides of the matzah box.
2. When insert has dried, place it in the bottom of the box



Sing Passover Songs

Bang Bang

Bang, bang, bang, hold your hammer low.
Bang, bang, bang, give a heavy blow.
For its work, work, work, every day and every night.
For its work, work, work, when it's dark and when it's light.
Dig, dig, dig, dig your shovels deep.
Dig, dig, dig, there's no time for sleep.
For its work, work, work, every day and every night.
For its work, work, work, when it's dark and when it's light.

To hear a recording of The Building Cities Song, go to:

<http://new.music.yahoo.com/cindy-paley/tracks/building-cities-181056313>

Let My People Go

(by Sally Heckleman; sung to "I've Been Working on the Railroad")

The Jews were busy building cities
All the livelong day
The Jews were busy building cities
And they did it Pharoah's way
Moses tried to get them out of Egypt
He said, "Let my people go,"
But stubborn Pharoah wouldn't listen
He kept on saying, "No!"

Chorus

"Let my people go"

"No!"

"Let my people go"

"No!"

"Please let my people go-go-go!"

(repeat)

For more ideas on songs to sing during this portion of your program, check out:

<http://www.totshabbat.com/Passover.html>



Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

After the program, contact families, thanking them for coming to the program, and asking them to send in pictures of their family caring out some of the tasks on their chore chart. Remember to provide families with schedules and information about the various Passover programs which will be held in your area. Provide families with a few interesting links to learn more about the holiday:

Passover Resources from PJ Library

<http://www.pjlibrary.org/parents-and-families/reading-tips-and-resources/jewish-holidays/passover.aspx>

Engaging Children at the Passover Seder – PJ Library blog post

<http://pjlibrary.org/pj-blog/index.php/archives/4486/engaging-children-at-the-passover-seder/>

Hiding the Afikomen: Passover Fun for Children – PJ Library blog post

<http://pjlibrary.org/pj-blog/index.php/archives/4589/hiding-the-afikomen-passover-fun-for-children/>

Recipes

Playdough Recipe

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups water
- 4 Tablespoons oil

Directions

1. Combine dry ingredients in a bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, mix together water and oil. Gradually stir water/oil combination into dry ingredients.
3. Cook on medium heat, stirring frequently, until dough becomes the consistency of mashed potatoes.
4. Turn off heat and continue to stir until mixture forms a ball



Matzah Dough Recipe

- 2 cups flour
- 1 and 1/2 cups water (approximately)

Directions

1. Mix together and knead into a ball. Add more water if the mixture seems too dry and add more flour if mixture seems too wet.



Red Hen Friendship Ballot

Cast your vote:

Although they're her friends, the Horse, Sheep, and Dog refused to help the Little Red Hen with her Passover preparations. Should she allow them to come to her Seder?

Yes

No

Please explain why you voted the way you did.

Red Hen Friendship Ballot

Cast your vote:

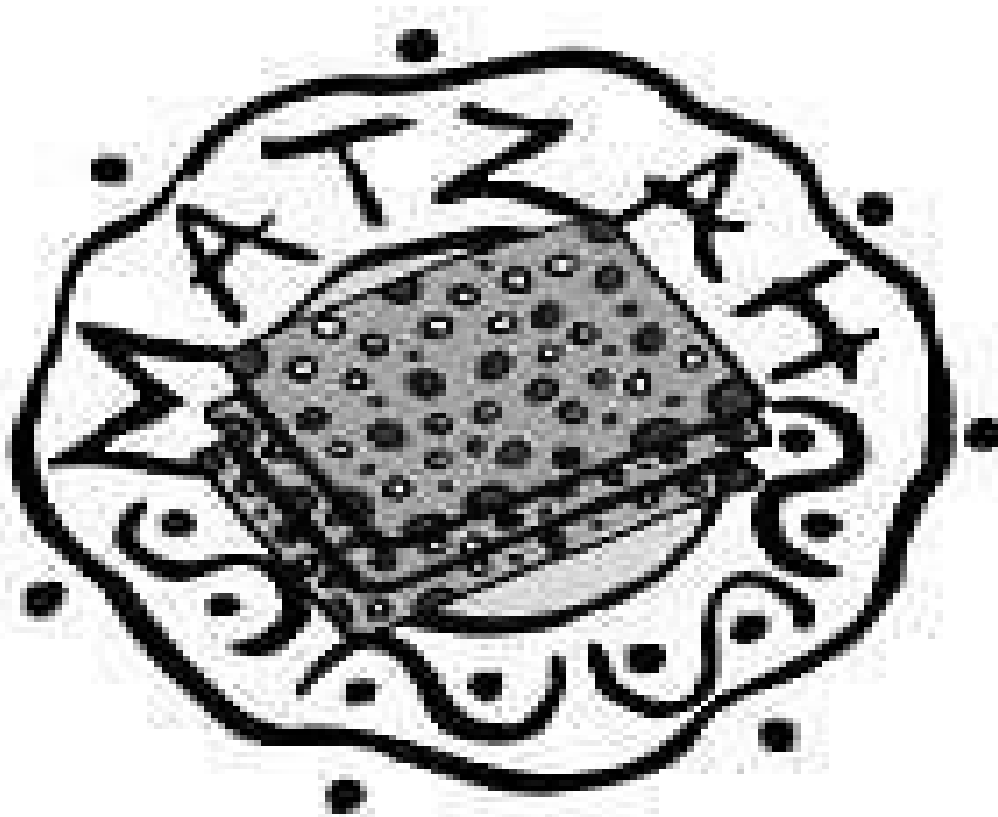
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Yes





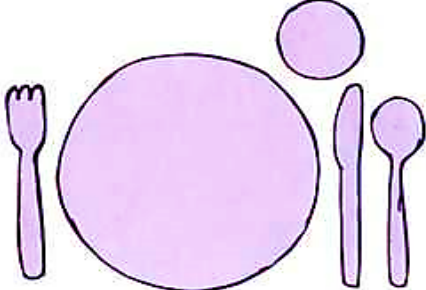
No

Please explain why you voted the way you did.

**Let all who are hungry,
come and eat.**



Job Chart Tasks

Task	Picture
Wash Toys	
Dust-bust underneath couch and chair cushions	
Clean chairs	
Help clean the car	
Set the table	

Sweep the floor



Water the plants



Make the bed



Wash windows/mirrors



Search jacket pockets for crumbs



Wash the table



Our Passover Cleaning Chart

Our Weekly Cleaning Chart