



ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE NIGHT

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Two young brothers find a way to celebrate Hanukkah while making a dangerous journey to a new life in Palestine.

The journey undertaken by Moses and Benjamin in this book would have been daunting for adults, let alone two boys traveling alone. Like their biblical namesakes, these brothers exemplify the concept of *ometz lev*, or true courage. In the Torah, Moses led the Israelites despite his misgivings and self-doubt, while Benjamin, the youngest brother of Joseph, showed bravery when threatened with imprisonment in Egypt. Children may think of courage as something reserved for adults, however in this story they can see *ometz lev* put into practice by young people. Give your children opportunities to remember and talk about times they have overcome their fears, as well as times when they weren't yet able to do so.

A TRUE STORY

All the Lights in the Night takes place when Russia had a tsar; the boys were travelling to Palestine; and while Drahitzen (also spelled Drohiczyn) might reasonably be thought of as a fictional settlement, it is actually a real town in the far eastern region of modern-day Poland. In fact, this story is based on the real-life experiences of two brothers. With library books or online sources, discover more with your

children about Jewish life in Eastern Europe at this time in our history.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Consider the following ideas to enhance the reading of this story:

- Discuss some of the reasons that Jews have left their homes to settle in a new country. If possible, include your own family's story.
- Use a map to plot the approximate route the boys took from their Poland to Palestine. Talk about how life has changed; compare the time it might have taken for Moses' and Benjamin's journey with how quickly the trip could be made today.
- Create an opportunity for your family to share with each other the one "priceless" item each would take as a keepsake on a long and difficult journey to a new home.
- Encourage your children to generate additional endings for this story: perhaps the grandmother's lantern is returned to the boys, or a blizzard delays their trip. Pj