

THE ADVENTURES OF RABBI HARVEY

Written by Steve Sheinkin

Illustrated by Steve Sheinkin

In the fictitious town of Elk Spring, Colorado, circa 1870, Rabbi Harvey shares Talmudic wisdom, Jewish folktales (and a lot more!) through a number of short, humorous adventures.

The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey is a collection of short stories which take place in the fictitious town of Elk Spring, Colorado. Each story in the collection teaches Jewish wisdom, values and fair play with humor, logic and understanding. Each story lends itself to discussion, contemplation and activities that you and your children can do together.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

After reading *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey*, consider asking your children to try:

- Acting out one of the stories with friends. Is the story funnier or more meaningful than when read?
- Taking the challenge of stating the lesson of one of the stories in 25 words or less. Can they do it in ten words?
- Writing a Rabbi Harvey story of their own to share.

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN

You might ask your children:


- Are there characters in the stories you would like to be? Who? Why?
- If Harvey were not a rabbi, would you still know these are Jewish stories? How?

- Do you think Rabbi Harvey would make a good friend?
- What Jewish values do these stories show?

PIRKE AVOT

In his introduction, the author mentions a number of sources for the stories in this collection, among them Pirke Avot and Hasidic legends.

Pirke Avot, often called Ethics of the Fathers in English, is a compilation of concise thoughts by rabbis from ancient times. The ethical principles found in *Pirke Avot* stem from such statements as, “Who is wise? The person who learns from everyone,” attributed to Ben Zoma, and “Say little and do much,” from Shammai.

Hasidism is a branch of Orthodox Judaism founded in the mid-1700s by the Baal Shem Tov, a rabbi, scholar and mystic. Hasidism promotes great joy in religious practice. 

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