



THE SCHMUTZY FAMILY

Written by Madelyn Rosenberg

Illustrated by Paul Meisel

The Schmutzys are messy all week long, and no one—not even Mom!—seems to care a bit. When Friday rolls around, everyone helps clean up as the family prepares for Shabbat.

When Friday rolls around, the Schmutzy family seems to transform itself. Between sunset on Friday and Saturday evening when three stars appear in the night sky, Jewish families around the world celebrate *Shabbat* in countless ways. For the Schmutzys, this includes candle-lighting on Friday evening, enjoying a special meal, singing, and synagogue services. For many families, *Shabbat* can be a time set aside—to be with friends, visit neighbors, enjoy special foods, and catch up with family and friends about what happened during the week. Regardless of the ways your family celebrates, *Shabbat* is a time to enjoy the specialness of unwinding and recharging.

SAMEACH B'CHELKO

Regardless of what they do, the Schmutzys seem to enjoy themselves, just by being together as a family. The Hebrew phrase *sameach b'chelko* means being satisfied with what one has. A lesson in *Pirke Avot* (a book of teachings from ancient Jewish sages) reads: “Who is rich? One who is content with one’s lot.” The Schmutzy family really seems to have taken this teaching to heart!

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Do you know a family like the Schmutzys? In Yiddish—an ancient language referred to as the *mameloschen* (mother

tongue) of the Jewish people—*schmutzy* is a gentle term for dirty or messy. Yes, the children are *farishtunken* (another Yiddish word, meaning “smelly”) but they enjoy life! While they “clean up their act” for *Shabbat*, the Schmutzys still enjoy themselves—together. Here are some ideas for a family *Shabbat* that might work for your family:

- Have a Friday evening book marathon. Read and read and read together. (Cocoa with marshmallows wouldn’t hurt either!)
- See how much time you can spend outside on *Shabbat*. (Think: park, playground, beach, orchard, back yard.)
- Have a *Shabbat* picnic. (PB&J on *challah*, anyone?)
- Play games.
- Tell stories.
- Look forward to the next *Shabbat*. PJ

LEARN MORE
PJLIBRARY.ORG/FAMILIES

