



## A HEN FOR IZZY PIPPIK

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*What's a girl to do when she finds a chicken and can't return it to its owner? How long should she wait before calling the bird (and its many offspring!) her own? Shaina seems prepared to wait forever for Izzy Pippik to return.*

Shaina and her grandfather have a close relationship. He calls her Shainala: adding “la” at the end of a name is a Yiddish way of expressing affection. What nicknames does your family use, and where do they come from?

In this book, Shaina encounters a problem she is determined to solve. Like Shaina, we can all be leaders and help repair the world. What interests your family? Carrying out *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) can be as simple as picking up trash on a family walk or greeting passers-by. Your family might give out plants to beautify the neighborhood.

Your neighborhood should provide plenty of ways to show respect for property. For example, you and your children might choose to clean someone's car windows along with your own. Perhaps your family can volunteer to take care of your neighbors' mail and newspapers when they go away. What surprise might you leave for them to find on their return?

### TIKKUN OLAM

*Tikkun Olam* is translated from the Hebrew as “repairing the world.” The phrase is found in the Mishna, an ancient book of Torah commentary. Today many Jews recognize *tikkun olam* as an opportunity for social activism. Discussing *tikkun olam* in the context of this book provides parents with a chance to teach their children what values are important to

them, emphasizing the importance of being the best person one can be.

### RESPECT FOR OTHERS' PROPERTY

*Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of Our Ancestors) 2:17 says: “Let your fellow's belongings be as dear to you as your own.” In this book, Shaina goes beyond merely caring for her found pet; she inspires the townsfolk to care for the chicken and its offspring! Shaina exemplifies the idea of going the extra mile.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

You might consider discussing the following questions with your children as you read:

- When and why do the townspeople change their attitude about the chickens?
- What do you think goes through Izzy Pippik's mind when he comes back to town and talks to Shaina?
- The illustrations show a lot of hustle and bustle in this town—what is everyone doing? Pj

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