

# IN THE MONTH OF KISLEV

## In the Month of Kislev

by Nina Jaffe, illustrated by Louise August (Viking)

Themes: Hanukkah, Greed

Grade Level: K-3

Running Time: 11 minutes, iconographic

### Summary

This is the story of a Polish community preparing for the celebration of Hanukkah. One day, the children of a poor family stop under the window of a wealthy family in town, and thoroughly enjoy the aroma of potato pancakes cooking in the kitchen.

The children do this each day, until the owner of the house discovers them under his window. Angrily, the owner brings the children and their parents to the local Rabbi and insists on being paid by the family for the enjoyment the children have been getting from smelling the potato pancakes.

The story ends with a wise and creative solution to the problem offered by the Rabbi.

### Objectives

- Children will learn about Hanukkah.
- Children will explore concepts such as sharing, kindness and generosity.
- Children will investigate the meaning of family life.

### Before Viewing Activities

Share the book In The Month of Kislev with chil-

dren. Discuss new words like menorah and latkes with children. Then ask:

- What kinds of holidays do you celebrate at home?
- What is (would be) your favorite part of the Hanukkah celebration?
- What other solutions might the Rabbi have suggested for the problem between the families of Mendel and Feivel?

Have children in the group take turns describing their own winter holiday celebrations. Encourage children to bring objects from home which are symbolic of their holidays to school and share them with the group.

Explain that holidays are a time when our senses come alive. See if children can describe the different objects, foods, experiences that appeal to their senses of taste, touch, sight, and sound during their favorite holidays.

### After Viewing Activities

Use the following recipe to cook up a batch of potato pancakes for children to enjoy:

#### Potato Pancakes

#### Ingredients:

- 4 pounds potatoes
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup chopped onion
- 6 tablespoons flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of salt

1/2 cup butter/margarine (makes about 16 latkes)

1. Wash and pare the potatoes. Shred the potatoes to make about eight cups. Drain.
2. Beat eggs until thick. Add potatoes, onion, flour, and salt.
3. Melt butter in large skillet. Form potato mixture into patties. Place patties in skillet. Cook patties on each side, about five minutes for each batch of patties.

Talk with children about the attitudes of Feivel and his family, and how their feelings changed at the end of the story. Ask children to think about times when they may have been treated unkindly, or experienced the anger of someone. Encourage children to talk about how this felt, and then to consider what people can do to show greater kindness toward one another. Discuss the music in the movie and how it "flavored" the viewing experience.

Other videos and films about Hanukkah and other holidays available from Weston Woods include:

CHICKEN SOUP WITH RICE by Maurice Sendak

THE CLOWN OF GOD by Tomie de Paola

MAX'S CHOCOLATE CHICKEN by Rosemary Wells

MAX'S CHRISTMAS by Rosemary Wells

MORRIS'S DISAPPEARING BAG by Rosemary Wells

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