



## All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah

*Emily Jenkins , Paul O. Zelinsky (Illustrator)*

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**The beloved characters from Sydney Taylor's All-of-a-Kind Family return in this heartwarming picture book from a critically adored team--perfect for Hanukkah gift-giving!**

Acclaimed author Emily Jenkins (*A Greyhound, a Groundhog*) and Caldecott Award-winning artist Paul O. Zelinsky (*Rapunzel*) bring the beloved All-of-a-Kind Family to life in a new format. Fans, along with those just meeting the five girls ("all of a kind," as their parents say), will join them back in 1912, on the Lower East Side of NYC, and watch as preparations for Hanukkah are made. When Gertie, the youngest, is not allowed to help prepare latkes, she throws a tantrum. Banished to the girls' bedroom, she can still hear the sounds and smell the smells of a family getting ready to celebrate. But then Papa comes home and she is allowed out--and given the best job of all: lighting the first candle on the menorah.

First published in 1951, Taylor's chapter books have become time-honored favorites, selling over a million copies and touching generations of readers. In this time when immigrants often do not feel accepted, the All-of-a-Kind Family gives a heartwarming glimpse of a Jewish immigrant family and their customs that is as relevant--and necessary--today as when it was first written. Jenkins and Zelinsky's charming compliment to Taylor's series perfectly captures the warmth and family values that made the original titles classics.

## All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah Details

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## **From Reader Review All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah for online ebook**

### **Ms. Yingling says**

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It's Hanukkah on New York's Lower East Side in 1912. Young Gertie, who is four, is very excited about all of the preparations that her parents and four older sisters are making. Making latkes is especially intriguing, since they are made only once a year. Gertie wants to help, but the others tell her it is too dangerous and she should read her library books instead of trying to help out. Angry, she goes to the next room to hide, thinking they will be sorry they ignored her, but no one comes. Eventually, Papa comes looking for her and takes her out to the family celebration to eat the delicious latkes.

This simple story is a good introduction to the classic Sydney Taylor All-of-a-Kind Family (1951) middle grade books, which were some of the first books about Jewish children that reached a main stream audience. Today, there is a Sydney Taylor book award for contributions to Jewish children's literature. These books showcased the daily life and celebrations of a family in an immigrant neighborhood in New York City in the early 1900s and were some of my favorites when I was young-- they were sort of the equivalent of The Brady Bunch when it came to positive and fun depictions of a large family.

The story is simple and easy to follow, and the notes at the back are helpful in understanding so of the concepts of the time, as well as the history of the series. Zelinsky's drawings, while vastly different from the Joe and Beth Krush illustrations in the original books with all of their fine-line details, depict the era well. The family's apartment is clearly laid out, and made sense for the first time to me-- of course it was just two rooms! The colors are happy, and the sense of movement and joy comes through the rough outlined shapes.

All-of-a-Kind Hanukkah is a great addition to a collection of holiday books, and also a good way to develop an interest in a classic series. Give this one to readers who love Little House on the Prairie early reader novels, American Girl books, or historical fiction picture books.

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### **DaNae says**

Lovely slice-of-life, early 20-century immigrant city life.

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### **Laurie says**

I LOVED this series growing up. I LOVE Emily Jenkins books. How can this not be amazing?

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### **Alex (not a dude) Baugh says**

t's Hanukkah 1912 on the Lower East Side of NYC and the five all-of-a-kind girls, Ella, 12, Henny, 10,

Sarah, 8, Charlotte, 6, and Gertie, 4, are very excited. Hanukkah means lightening the Menorah and eating Mama's wonderful latkes with applesauce that she only makes once a year. Everyone is busy with preparing the ingredients for the latkes except Gertie, who's still just a little too young. Mad, Gertie storms off to the bedroom and hides under the bed. She's sure that they'll be sorry when they can't find her. But then Papa comes home and begins looking for her. Will he be able to find Gertie so that she can help him with the most important job, lighting the menorah?

This is such a lovely family centered picture book. Everyone works together to make their Hanukkah celebration a joyous time, from working in the kitchen to lighting the menorah in the window for everyone to see. Emily Jenkins and Paul Zelinsky have really managed to capture the feeling of warmth and togetherness of this Eastern European immigrant family that runs throughout the original Sydney Taylor novels. Not an easy task when you are dealing with such a beloved classic series. And this is the perfect way to introduce younger readers to the All-of-a-Kind stories. I just love Zelinsky's boldly colored digital illustrations and the way they really bring the all-of-a-kind family and the Lower East Side to life.

You'll also find lots of additional information about Hanukkah and the All-of-a-Kind novels in the back matter, which includes a glossary of Yiddish terms.

You can also find a detailed Educator Guide [HERE](#)

And you can download and print three illustrations from the story for your young readers to color [HERE](#)

And if Mama's potato latkes made your mouth water the way they did mine, and you would like to make some, too, you can find Emily Jenkins' favorite recipe (with comments from Paul Zelinsky) [HERE](#)  
What a wonderful Hanukkah gift this book would make.

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### **Cheryl says**

Hanukkah, 1912, little 4 year old Gertie anxiously awaits their annual latkes while getting a reminder on the season's rituals and history. Her four sisters and mother are making preparations for the feast, dicing, peeling, grating, frying and Gertie wants to be a part of the humm, but her mother deems the tools too sharp and the grease too hot for inexperienced hands. A tantrum ensues and she is banished to her room until her father comes home and entices her out from under the bed with a promise of lighting the first candle. Based on the classic by Sydney Taylor, it is beautifully illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky. The story of Hanukkah is added at the end, for a refresher.

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### **Kit Feral says**

As a lonely only I remember well reading books about this big family and wishing to be in it. This book is a sweet homage.

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### **Tina Hoggatt says**

Emily Jenkins perfectly captures the family warmth and setting of the beloved All-of-a-Kind novels while cleverly showing the reader all of the aspects of the Hanukkah celebration as the story develops. Firmly placed in the point of view of Gertie, the youngest sister too little to help with latke preparations (sharp

peeler, hot oil). Her stormy tantrum banishes her to her bedroom as her sisters set the table and finish preparing dinner. Gertie hides under her bed and we experience the pathos at being excluded through her eyes. When Papa comes in out of the cold outside and comes to find Gertie we see what a loving, funny father he is in a scene of gingersnaps, love and the promos of lighting the first candle. Finally, Gertie has a part to play in the Hanukkah celebration. The illustrations by Paul O. Zelinsky are a perfect counterpart to the text and the combination makes for a lovely piece of picture book perfection.

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### **Lynn says**

The All-of-a-Kind Family books were one of my absolute favorite series when I was a kid. I nearly wore the pages out, reading them over and over again and I remember what an enormous treat it was when we'd go to Brentano's Book store in Chicago where I could actually BUY the next in the series.

Thank you Emily Jenkins and Paul Zelinsky for this sweet and wonderful treat - a lovely visit with these dearly loved characters. I was not disappointed as this artistic team has absolutely captured the spirit of the stories.

Totally charming and I hope it will turn other children on to the joys of this classic series.

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### **Barbara says**

Gertie and her sister Sarah head home for dinner on the first night of Hanukkah in 1912. Since Gertie is only four, she has only vague memories of how the family celebrates this important holiday. Her four sisters get right to work on the meal preparations once Gertie arrives home. Although she's eager to help, she is rebuffed at every turn because she might hurt herself. When she throws a tantrum at being left out, her mother puts her in her room to calm her down. Gertie is sure that time will never pass as she smells all those delicious aromas from the kitchen. Finally, with the arrival of her father, she joins the rest of the family and helps him light the first candle on the menorah. The story and the digital illustrations capture perfectly a place and time and take readers back to a century ago while also paying tribute to traditions that are still closely followed today. Gertie's personality and her earnest wish to be included will resonate with other young readers who may wonder when they will be old enough to join in the family fun. This picture book continues the family stories originally written by Sydney Taylor, refreshing them for a new audience who will surely agree that they are timeless and just as meaningful and relevant today as when the original ones were written. I hope there will be more forthcoming.

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### **Marjorie Ingall says**

I wanted to dislike this SO MUCH! HOW DARE THEY MESS WITH GENERATIONS OF JEWISH WOMEN'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES?? Yeah, no worries. Jenkins and Zelinsky NAILED IT. What an accomplishment, especially given the weight of expectations among *ha'mavin yavin* (those who know, know). Review at Tablet Magazine.

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## Abigail says

The All-of-a-Kind-Family prepare for Hanukkah in this new picture-book from author Emily Jenkins and illustrator Paul Zelinsky. As twelve-year-old Ella, ten-year-old Henny, eight-year-old Sarah and six-year-old Charlotte help their mother with various tasks, in order to prepare latkes, four-year-old Gertie feels left out, and throws a tantrum. Her mother sends her to her room, where she stays until her father comes home, and gives her something truly important to do: help to light the first candle on their menorah...

Having greatly loved Sydney Taylor's five *All-of-a-Kind Family* novels as a young girl, I was both eagerly excited and somewhat nervous about the publication of *All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah*, which featured the cast of those books in an all new adventure. Fortunately, although I wouldn't describe this one as a new favorite, I found it engaging and heartwarming. I don't know that it really convinced me that this *was* the All-of-a-Kind Family of my youth, but it was still a pleasant holiday tale, one paired with appealing artwork from Zelinsky. Recommended to those looking for engaging Hanukkah stories for the picture-book set, and to fans of the Taylor books.

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## Amy says

I loved this book! The illustrations, the characters, the beautiful story of family and traditions and heritage...and the realities of living in a big family.

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## Manybooks says

While how in *All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah* Emily Jenkins (narrative) and Paul O. Zelinsky (accompanying illustrations) describe and portray Hanukkah celebration (including their religious and cultural significances in and for Judaism) have been both textually informative and visually delightful (with especially Zelinsky's illustrative layout of the All-of-a-Kind Family's 1912 New York City tenement apartment being very much and personally appreciated), I do have to admit that in particular Mama's approach to her youngest daughter Gertie's desires to also help with the preparations of the latkes has kind of bothered me a trifle and rubbed me the wrong proverbial way.

For while the mother's concerns that Gertie might hurt herself trying to help with peeling, grating, chopping and the like are indeed and from a realism point of departure more than justified (and that she and Gertie's older sisters are of course likely also rushing to get everything done on time), I personally do feel that Emily Jenkins has with the mother constantly simply saying NO and then just sending a pouting and justifiably annoyed and feeling left out Gertie for a time-out in the bedroom kind of not captured how in my opinion in the *All-of-a-Kind Family* novels, the mother used to handle and approach questions of discipline and such (in other words, that if Emily Jenkins were to have totally kept to the spirit and also to the general contents of Sydney Taylor's novels, in her *All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah*, Jenkins should have had the mother, she should have made Mama find an imaginative way to include little Gertie in the process and the preparations for the latkes without exposing her to possible dangers and threats from sharp kitchen implements and hot grease, that the Mama of the *All-of-a-Kind Family* novels would in my humble opinion not simply have left her youngest daughter so completely out of the latkes preparation process).

And therefore, while the general early 20th century America and especially the Hanukkah ambience and

atmosphere penned by Emily Jenkins and illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky in All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah have felt totally and utterly realistic (and yes, generally also an authentic mirror of Sydney Taylor's *All-of-a-Kind Family* novels) and albeit I find that both the father (that Papa) and the five girls have been textually successfully enough captured by the author, by Emily Jenkins, I personally really do not think that she has been in any manner equally successful with regard to her narrational renderings of Mama, with regard to the mother, as I for one firmly do believe that considering how in Sydney Taylor's *All-of-a-Kind Family* series both Mama and Papa are generally always pretty imaginative with regard to discipline and making sure that their daughters are approached fairly and equally, how Emily Jenkins has penned the episode with Gertie just feels somewhat if not actually rather off to and for me (a realistic enough portrayal perhaps if one only and simply looks at the story at hand, but really not all that much so if one looks at All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah as a companion piece to the *All-of-a-Kind Family* novels).

Still (and my criticisms notwithstanding) All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah remains recommended (with the supplemental information at the back, the short glossary of Yiddish terms, the detailed author's and illustrator's notes and of course that Emily Jenkins has listed the *All-of-a-Kind Family* novels in sequence of appearance as well as including her bibliographical sources being very much personally appreciated, since the latter, aside from being a great academic research resource, also really does show just how much research Jenkins obviously has engaged in). However, from a personal reading pleasure point of view, while I have certainly much appreciated and even liked All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah for what it is and what it represents, I definitely would have enjoyed the story very much and considerably more had Emily Jenkins rendered the mother a bit more akin and alike to what I remember her as being in Sydney Taylor's incomparable and in all ways absolutely lovely and delightful *All-Of-a-Kind Family* novels.

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### Rose says

I can't say enough good things about this book. Every Jewish child aged 8 or younger should have it in his or her library, and every school or children's librarian should add this to their Hanukkah collection.

The year is 1912, and in the tenements of Manhattan's Lower East Side, families are preparing for Hanukkah. Gertie, the protagonist of this story, is the youngest of 5 siblings, all girls -- all of a kind, says their father. She's 4, and frustrated that she cannot help her mother and sisters in the preparation of the traditional potato latkes: the potato peeler is too sharp, as is the grater, and she's not allowed to use the knives that are used to chop the onions. She isn't even allowed to watch the latkes cooking, as the hot oil in the frying pan could spatter and burn her. When her protests about the unfairness of things get too loud and disrespectful, she is ushered to her bedroom to await the call to dinner.

It's her father who "rescues" her from her sulking place under the bed. He also finds a way to assuage her disappointment at being only four years old; he allows her the privilege of helping him to light the first candle of the holiday. One candle, for the first night. And then the all of a kind family sits down to the meal where crispy latkes taste of history and love. The sweetness of family togetherness and tradition lasts far beyond the last page of the book.

The illustrations are lovely and soft and reflect the time period and the mood of the story.

Anyone who celebrates Hanukkah or any traditional holiday with the family they love will love this book. It's meant for preschoolers and children in the early grades -- but big kids like me (a grandma) will love it, too.

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**Chris says**

This is a lovely picture book about a much-loved series for kids that was written almost 70 years ago. Sweet story, telling of Hanukkah traditions, a large Jewish family at the turn of the 20th century, and particularly the making of latkes. Not super crazy about the illustrations, for some reason....

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