



A Barefoot  
Discussion  
Guide

## The Midnight Mitzvah Discussion Guide

### SAYING THANK YOU

When Hanina Chipmunk shares nuts with her friends, Leon Mouse and Roselle Raccoon thank her. But neither one says the words “thank you.”

- What do Leon and Roselle say?
- What are some other ways to say thank you?
- What are some ways to say thank you without using any words?
- Make a list of people and things you are thankful for.
- Make a thank you card for someone.

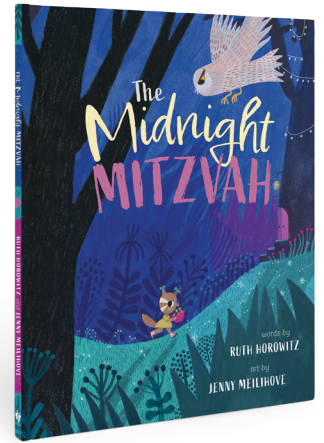
### HELPING KINDLY

Mathilda Squirrel is embarrassed to admit that she needs Hanina’s help.

- Why do you think she’s embarrassed?
- What are some other reasons someone might say no thank you?

To make sure that Mathilda is not embarrassed, Hanina gives her the nuts at night, when no one will see.

- Do you think this was a good idea? Why or why not?
- What are some other ways to help someone without embarrassing them?



### The Midnight Mitzvah

Written by Ruth Horowitz  
Illustrated by Jenny Meilohove



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from *The Midnight Mitzvah*



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## GIVING IN SECRET

The Great Horned Owl tells Hanina, “A gift given in secret is a very great mitzvah” (good deed).

- Do you agree? Why or why not?

Hanina loves it when her friends say great things about her. But at the end of the story, she learns that helping someone in secret is even sweeter.

- Do you like it when people know that you’ve done something good? Why or why not?
- Have you ever given a gift or received a gift in secret? How did it make you feel?

There are lots of ways to do good deeds without anyone knowing, such as picking up trash, moving something that someone might trip over, or bringing a lost object to the lost and found.

- Can you think of other examples?



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## DAY AND NIGHT ... AND IN BETWEEN

Animals like chipmunks that are most active during the day are called *diurnal*. Animals like owls that are most active during the night are called *nocturnal*. Other animals, such as rabbits, are most active at twilight—dawn or dusk—are called *crepuscular*.

- Can you think of other animals that are diurnal, nocturnal or crepuscular?
- Research your favorite animal and find out when it's most active.

All animals need to use their senses in order to find food and to escape being another animal's food.

- Which senses work best during the day and which during the night?
- What are some other differences between diurnal and nocturnal animals?

Take a nighttime walk with your family.

- Use all your senses to observe how it's different from a walk during the day.



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