

# Hanukkah (Celebrations & Festivals)

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Celebration, Freedom, Family Tradition, Jewish Culture, Strength

**Book Brief:** Join Lior's family in celebrating Hanukkah with latkes, blessings, and the dreidel game. Discover how this eight-day tradition unites the Jewish community and commemorates the Maccabees' victory.

**Author:**  
Lesléa Newman

**Illustrator:**  
Rotem Teplow



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Lior's family.

**Prior Knowledge:** Look up a video of the story of Hanukkah for kids on YouTube.

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read today, see how Lior and his family celebrate Hanukkah."

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why do you eat fried foods during Hanukkah?
- What are some of the fried foods eaten during Hanukkah?
- Describe the significance of the menorah during the window.

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** Lior celebrates the first night of Hanukkah at his house. How do they celebrate?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Have students complete a themed letter-writing activity ([Hanukkah Wishes](#)). This activity allows students to reflect on the story's themes, make personal connections to the holiday traditions presented, and practice early writing skills in an authentic context. By expressing their own wishes, traditions, or acts of kindness, students deepen comprehension, reinforce new vocabulary, and strengthen their ability to communicate ideas through writing.

If your students enjoyed this book:

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about Hanukkah.
  - [All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah](#) (2018)
  - [Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblin](#) (2014)
  - [The Story of Hanukkah](#) (2011)