

Teacher Guide for Farmer Kobi’s Hanukkah Match:

(written by Rabbi Ron Isaacs)

Sharing the story of Farmer Kobi can be a wonderful way to start a discussion on Jewish values with your child or students.

Compassion for Animals: Tza ‘ar Ba ‘alei Chayyim:

Jewish tradition shows great concern for the welfare of animals. Animals are included in the commandment to rest on Shabbat, and the ancient rabbis advised people to feed their animals before eating their own meals. After sharing the story of Farmer Kobi and his animals, talk with your child or students about the following related ideas:

Do you think that Farmer Kobi is kind to animals?

Is Polly?

Is Ruthie?

Why is it important to be kind to animals?

Welcoming guests: Hachnasat Orchim:

Welcoming guests is one of the most pleasant commandments to perform. The Torah describes how our ancestors Abraham and Sarah rushed to bring refreshments to their guests, and the rabbinic sage Rabbi Huna would stand outside his door and announce, “Let all who are hungry come in to eat.” After reading about Farmer Kobi hosting guests, invite your child or students to think about the following questions:

Were Farmer Kobi’s animals good hosts?

What did they do to make Polly and Ruthie feel welcome?

What actions can you take to help guests feel comfortable in your home?

In this book, we learn new words:

Moshav—a cooperative farming community in Israel.

Limonana—a popular Israeli drink that combines lemonade and mint leaves.

Baba ghanoush—a spicy dish made with mashed eggplant and olive oil.

Falafel—deep-fried chickpea balls.

Here is a link to coloring pages of all the characters in the book. Color each character, put them on popsicle sticks and put on your own puppet show.

<https://www.karenrostocker-gruber.com/wp-content/uploads/Farmer-Kobi-Coloring-Page.pdf>

