

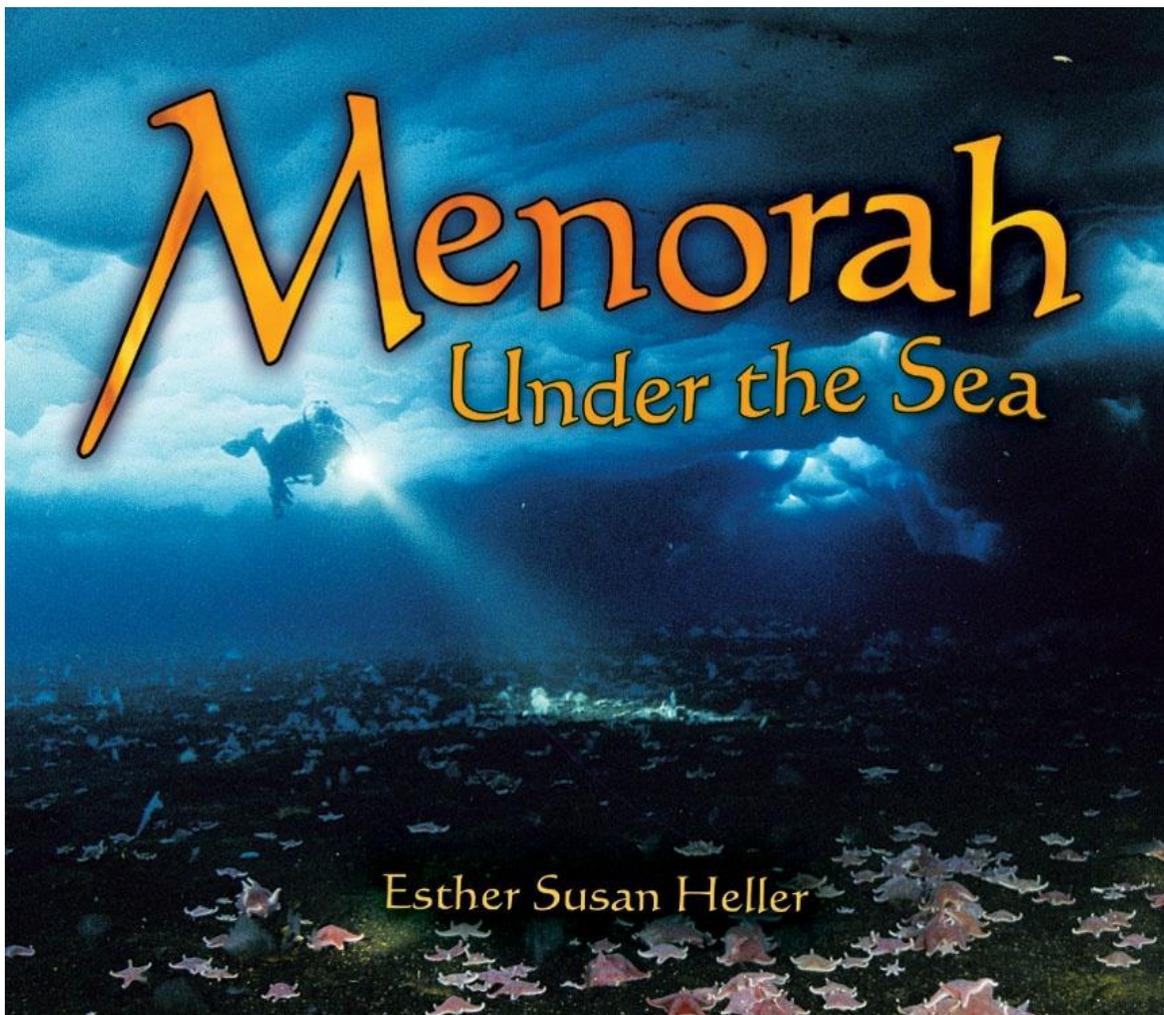
# KAR-BEN

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## Lesson Plan (Gr. 2-3)

A Resource for Teachers



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Lesson Plan by Melissa Moss  
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Ages 5-9 | Grades K-3  
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## Overview

In this non-fiction book, David Ginsburg is a researcher who works in Antarctica. He has to dive into the cold ocean to research sea urchins on the first night of Hanukkah. While diving, he comes up with a great idea to celebrate the start of the holiday: make a menorah out of starfish and sea urchins!

## About the Author

Esther Susan Heller is the director of The Jewish Writing Institute; which offers creative writing courses online. She has an MA in Social Work from Columbia University and a BA degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan. She lives in Tsfat, Israel with her husband and eight children. Sometimes she misses the snowy, wintry, weather of her childhood in Chicago and wonders what life would be like in Antarctica. She has, however, never been there.

## About Hanukkah

Hanukkah is an eight-day Festival of Lights that celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the mighty armies of Syrian King Antiochus. According to legend, when the Maccabees came to restore the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, they found one jug of pure oil, enough to keep the menorah for just one day. But a miracle happened, and the oil burned for eight days. On each day of the holiday, we add an additional candle to the menorah, exchange gifts, play the game of dreidel, and eat fried latkes and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) to remember this victory for religious freedom.

## Standards & Objectives

**Reading Comprehension 2.4** – Recall major points in the text and make and modify predictions about forthcoming information.

**Literary Response and Analysis 3.1** – Distinguish common forms of literature (e.g., poetry, drama, fiction, non-fiction).

# Lesson Plan

Preparation: For this lesson you will need a copy of the book, comic strip paper, pencils, colored pencils, erasers and whiteboard markers.

## Activity Steps:

1. Begin to read the book. After the first page, ask students if the book is fiction (made-up) or non-fiction. How can they tell?
2. When you get to page 17, ask students what the sea urchins look like to them. Or, you can ask what the students think the sea urchins do to survive.
3. On page 18, ask the students what they think David is planning to do. Ask if he'll make it before his oxygen runs out.
4. Explain to students that they will make a comic strip that retells the story. The only rule is that David, a menorah, and sea urchins are featured. They can make up whatever story they would like using those three elements. Give students twenty to thirty minutes to work on their comic strips. If you like, students can work in pencil first, check spelling with you, and then move on to coloring it in.
5. If you have extra time, students can share their comic strips with other students. You can also post the comics up on the walls for them to enjoy throughout the holiday.

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