

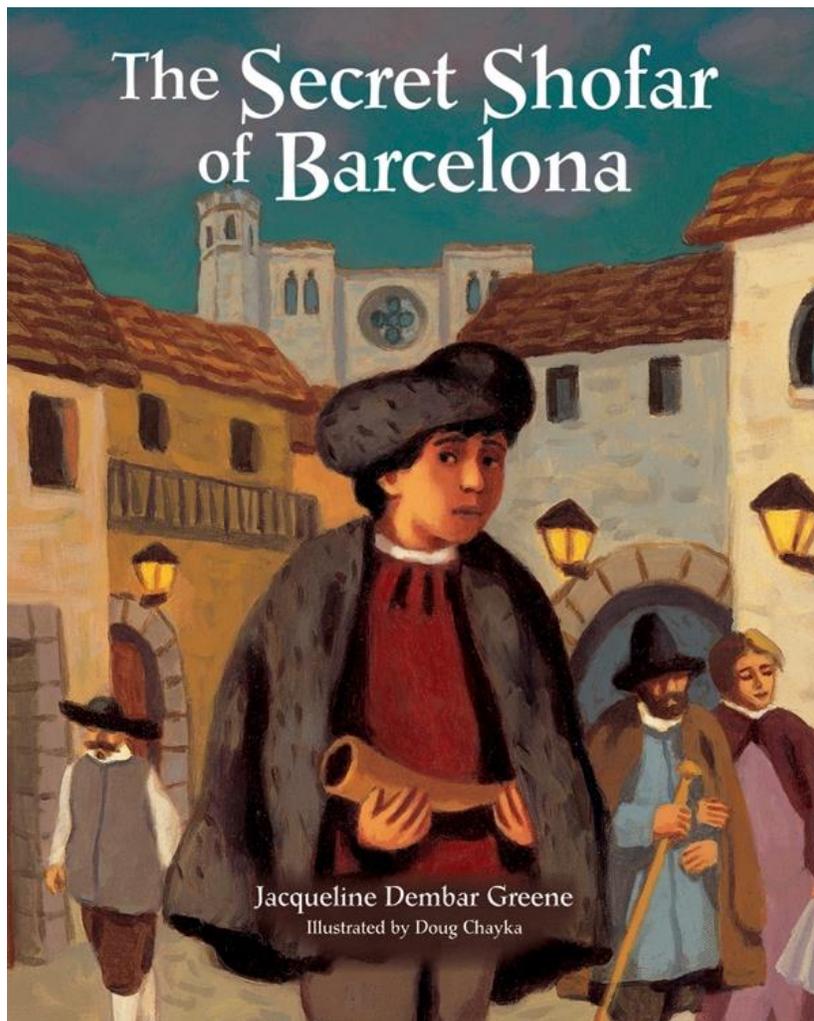
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Lesson Plan (Gr. 2-3)

A Resource for Teachers



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Overview

Symphony conductor Don Fernando longs to hear the sounds of the shofar. Like other conversos (converts) during the Spanish Inquisition, he must hide his Jewish religion and pretend to follow the teachings of the church. But when he is asked to perform a concert celebrating the new world, he and his son Rafael devise a clever plan to usher in the Jewish New Year in plain sight of the Spanish royalty.

About the Author

Jacqueline Dembar Greene is the award-winning author of more than 30 books for young readers. Her books include the Rebecca Rubin series for American Girl, “The Secret Shofar of Barcelona,” and “Butchers and Bakers, Rabbis and Kings,” was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. She lives in Wayland, MA.

About the Illustrator

Doug Chayka's work has received recognition from the Society of Illustrators of New York and Los Angeles. After graduating from the Rochester Institute of Technology, Doug traveled extensively in Europe, where he studied painting and printmaking as a Fulbright scholar in Germany at The Berlin University of the Arts. Doug has taught illustration at Pratt Institute, City College of New York, and the Rochester Institute of Technology and exhibits his work both in the United States and abroad. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

About Rosh Hashanah

New beginnings and sweetness are associated with Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah customs include eating apples and honey symbolizing a sweet new year, and wishing each other “shanah tovah,” a good new year. In the synagogue, prayers are recited from a special High Holiday prayer book, and the shofar (ram’s horn) is sounded.

Standards & Objectives

Reading Comprehension 2.4 – Ask clarifying questions about essential textual elements of exposition (e.g., *why, what if, how*).

Literary Response and Analysis 3.2 – Generate alternative endings to plots and identify the reason or reasons for, and the impact of, the alternatives.

Lesson Plan

Preparation: you will need a copy of the book, copies of a shofar outline, pencils and colored pencils, whiteboard and whiteboard markers.

Activity Steps:

1. Gather your students for reading time. Explain that you are going to read a book about Rosh Hashanah. Ask if students know what that holiday is about. Explain that it is a New Year celebration for Jewish people.
2. Begin to read the book. Stop on page 8 and ask the students if they know what a shofar is. Ask them how it works. Stop on page 20. Ask the students if they can predict from this point how the book will end. Skip the Author's Note. Ask students if they can think of another way this book could have ended. Give them an example if they are struggling ("The King could have been very angry because he found out they were Jews.")
3. Draw a shofar on the whiteboard. Explain that you are all going to write down a wish for the New Year inside the shofar. Give examples of wishes that are non-materialistic ("I want to get better at swimming, I want to be a better reader, I want to be more helpful to my family, I want to keep my room clean"). Write down your wish inside of the shofar on the whiteboard.
4. Hand out copies of the shofar. Help students with spelling. Have them color their shofar with colored pencils. Make sure you can still read the wish.
5. Students can share their wishes with the class.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR *THE SECRET SHOFAR OF BARCELONA*

SENSORY DEVELOPMENT:

1. Use a shofar in your class and let students try it out as well (make sure you have wipes on hand before passing the shofar around). Or, you can play the sound of the shofar <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8t1r2DSxsg>
2. Have students taste dried dates and apricots.
3. If you have access to Native American instruments, allow students to explore them with their hands.

KINESTETIC PLAY:

1. Scavenger hunt: Hide Rosh Hashanah apples (either use real apples or make apples out of construction paper) in a play area. Have students work in teams of four to find the hidden fruit. Before you begin, remind them how Rafael and Don Fernando from the story had to keep their Jewish identity hidden.

COOKING:

1. Raisin Challah. Find recipes here <http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/roshhashanah/recipes/raisinchallah.html>
http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/560778/jewish/Weaving-Round-Challah.htm

<http://www.kingarthurfour.com/blog/2010/09/03/round-and-round-we-go-rosh-hashanahs-round-raisin-challah/>

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