

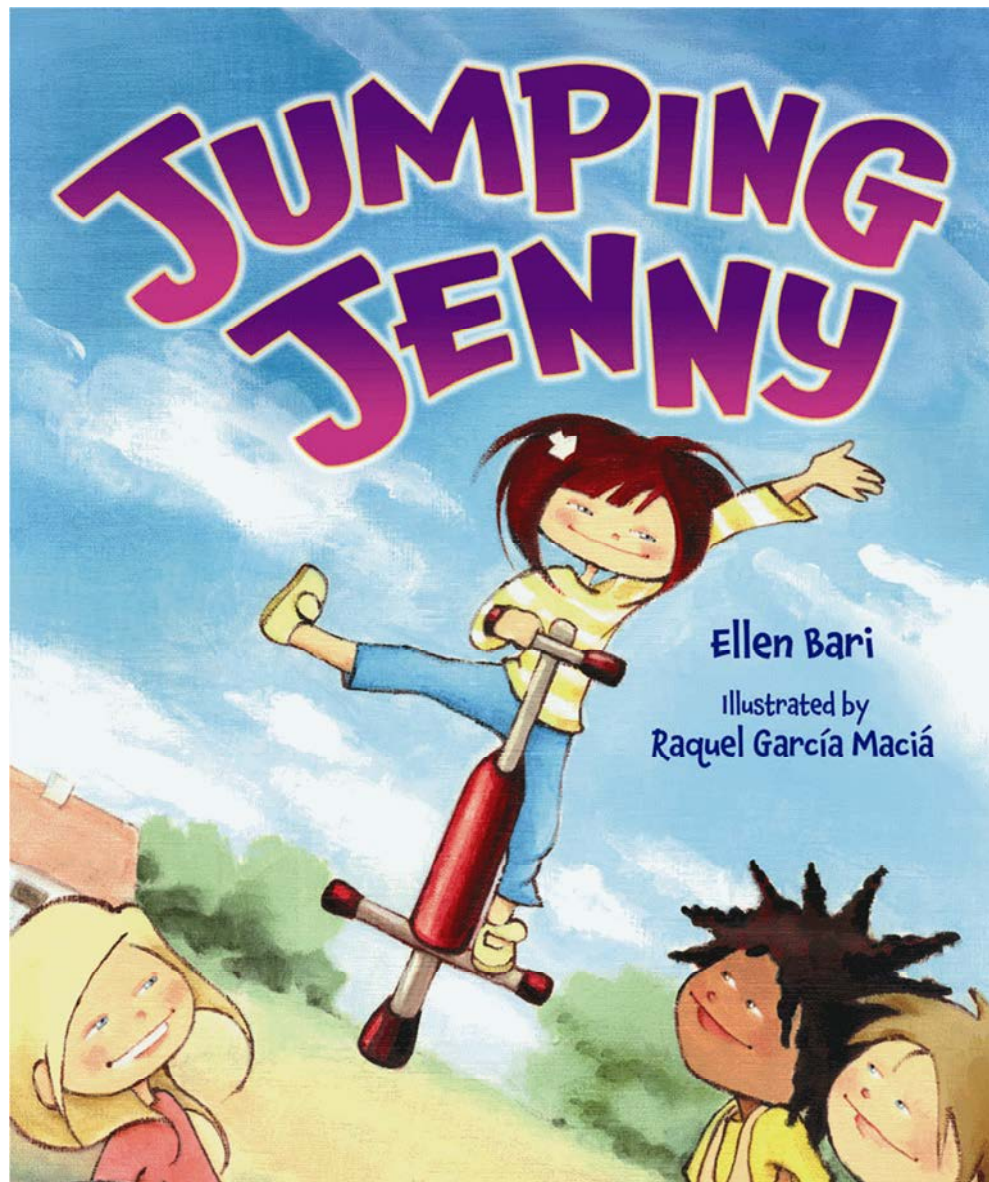
# KAR-BEN

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Resources for Teachers and Students



Ellen Bari

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## How to Use This Guide

This is a companion guide for teachers, parents and caregivers reading *Jumping Jenny*. The guide offers prompts for a deeper and more thoughtful reading experience through questions and suggested activities. The activities allow children to use a variety of modalities to understand the text, from processing the characters' emotions to improving the world through physical movement. The questions and activities are for a range of ages and adults should determine the level of appropriateness for their children. For example, if writing is too complex, drawing is an activity that can be substituted.

## About the Book

### About the Author



Ellen Bari is an author, educator and creator of award-winning multimedia, exhibits and programs for children and adults for clients including Sesame Workshop, PBS, Nickelodeon, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Harper-Collins. Ellen has published numerous readers and creative curriculum materials for educational publishers. Ellen co-founded Momasphere, to create innovative programs for moms of all ages. Ellen lives in Brooklyn with her daughter.

### About the Illustrator

Raquel García Macía was born in Spain and majored in Fine Arts at Spain's San Carlos University, in Valencia. She completed a Master's Degree in Illustration at the Istituto Europeo di design in Rome, Italy. Raquel has twice been awarded the winning prize at the International Contest of Illustration in Bologna, Italy. She has illustrated children's picture books for Belgian, Italian, American and Spanish publishing houses.

## Context

The main character of the story, Jenny, turns out to be a strong, resilient young girl, who is at first “othered” by her community because of her differences and later celebrated because of her accomplishments. Ultimately Jenny's individualism—her love of jumping—is valued and this occurs through the transformational act of *tikkun olam* or repairing the world. Performing *mitzvot* is a way of practicing *tikkun olam*, as is the obligation to take part in social action. As you read, point out ways that this Jewish value is present in your daily life—within your family, at school, and in the community.

## Vocabulary and Allusions

**pogo stick:** a toy with a spring used for jumping off the ground

**snickered:** laughed at something in a disrespectful way

**glum:** feeling gloomy or sad

**slumping:** to droop or decline in performance

**mitzvah:** Jewish term for an act of kindness

**Uganda:** country in east Africa that has experienced years of turmoil and need

**pledge:** promise to give a donation

# Questions:

## For before reading:

1. In what ways are people different from one another? What visible ways? What invisible ways?
2. In what ways are people the same? What visible ways? What invisible ways?
3. How do people sometimes act around other people different than themselves?
4. What is empathy?

## For reading together:

1. How does Jenny feel about jumping?
2. How does Mrs. Jacobs feel about Jenny's jumping?
3. As Jenny's classmates snickered, how did she feel?
4. Why did the children yell "Ribbit! Ribbit! "? How did Jenny react?
5. What does it mean that "Jenny seemed to lose a little more of her old hippity-hop self"?
6. What idea does Jenny have for raising money?
7. Describe the fair that the students create.
8. How does Jenny feel when she reaches her goal? How do her classmates feel?

## For post-reading discussion:

1. The first line of the story says that "Jenny was born to jump." Does this make her different than her classmates? How?
2. How do the illustrations help tell the story? Do they change at all during the story?
3. What role does Jenny's grandmother play in the story?
4. Have Jenny's classmates treated her with kindness? At which points in the story?
5. At the end, Jenny jumps with a pogo stick. Do you think she will go back to jumping without one, wherever she is, whenever she wants, like at the beginning of the story? Why or why not?
6. Is the class joined together in their project? What effect does this have on them?
7. What are some ways that characters in the story failed to show empathy? What are some ways that characters showed empathy?

## Suggested activities:

### The Same and Different:

In *Jumping Jenny*, we see examples of people who are different from one another. Get into small groups and make a list of ways that people in the story are different from one another. After you make your list, talk about if any of the people with differences have anything in common (for example, there are boys and girls, and they are all human beings).

### Born This Way:

Jenny was born to jump. What were you born to do? Write 1-2 paragraphs or draw a picture that explain(s) what you love to do and why you love to do it. Explain why this activity is your passion.

### Empathy Rewrite:

Think carefully about the points in this story where characters failed to show empathy. Work with one or more classmates to rewrite the moment in the story so the character shows compassion. Write your piece in dialogue and perform for the class.

### In Jenny's Shoes:

A saying goes that you must not judge a person until you have walked in his or her shoes. Jenny's feelings get hurt during the story, and she tries to hold back her tears and hold in her feelings. Select one of these moments. Imagine you are in Jenny's shoes, and then write a paragraph explaining Jenny's feelings, opinions and point of view at that moment.

### Make a Difference in the World:

As a class or group, work together to select a social issue that you have an interest in working on together. Jenny's class created a project that had two parts: creating awareness about an issue and then raising funds for specific projects to benefit others. What *mitzvot* can your class achieve?

### Get Jumping:

Have your own Jumpathon. Maybe your group will jump up and down, skip rope or jump on trampolines. Or, plan your own –athon, maybe a readathon, bikeathon or danceathon!

## Additional resources:

Visit author Ellen Bari's website for *Jumping Jenny* at [www.jumpingjennythebook.com](http://www.jumpingjennythebook.com).