

The Hanukkah Fable

of Little Dreidel
and Silver Menorah

Story by
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Illustrated By
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It was the last night of Hanukkah. Becky and Jake sang the blessings as their mother lit all the candles on the silver menorah that stood on the dining table next to a large window.



"It's so shiny!" exclaimed Becky.

"I like how the candles make it sparkle," added Jake.

Daddy smiled, "It is beautiful."



"Who's hungry?" Mommy asked.

"We are!" Becky and Jake shouted.

"Then let's bring out the food!" she said.

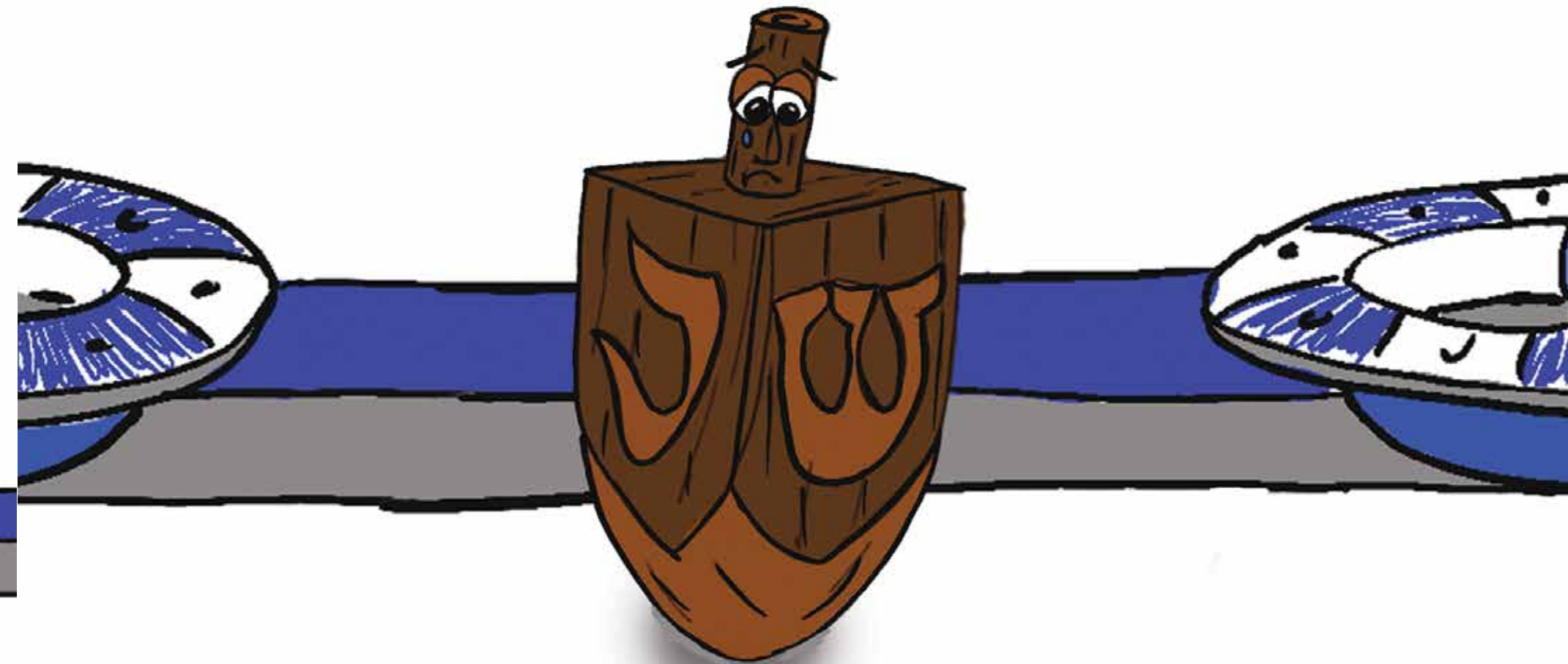


Silver Menorah watched as the family went into the kitchen. Suddenly it looked down and saw a brown wooden dreidel near its base.

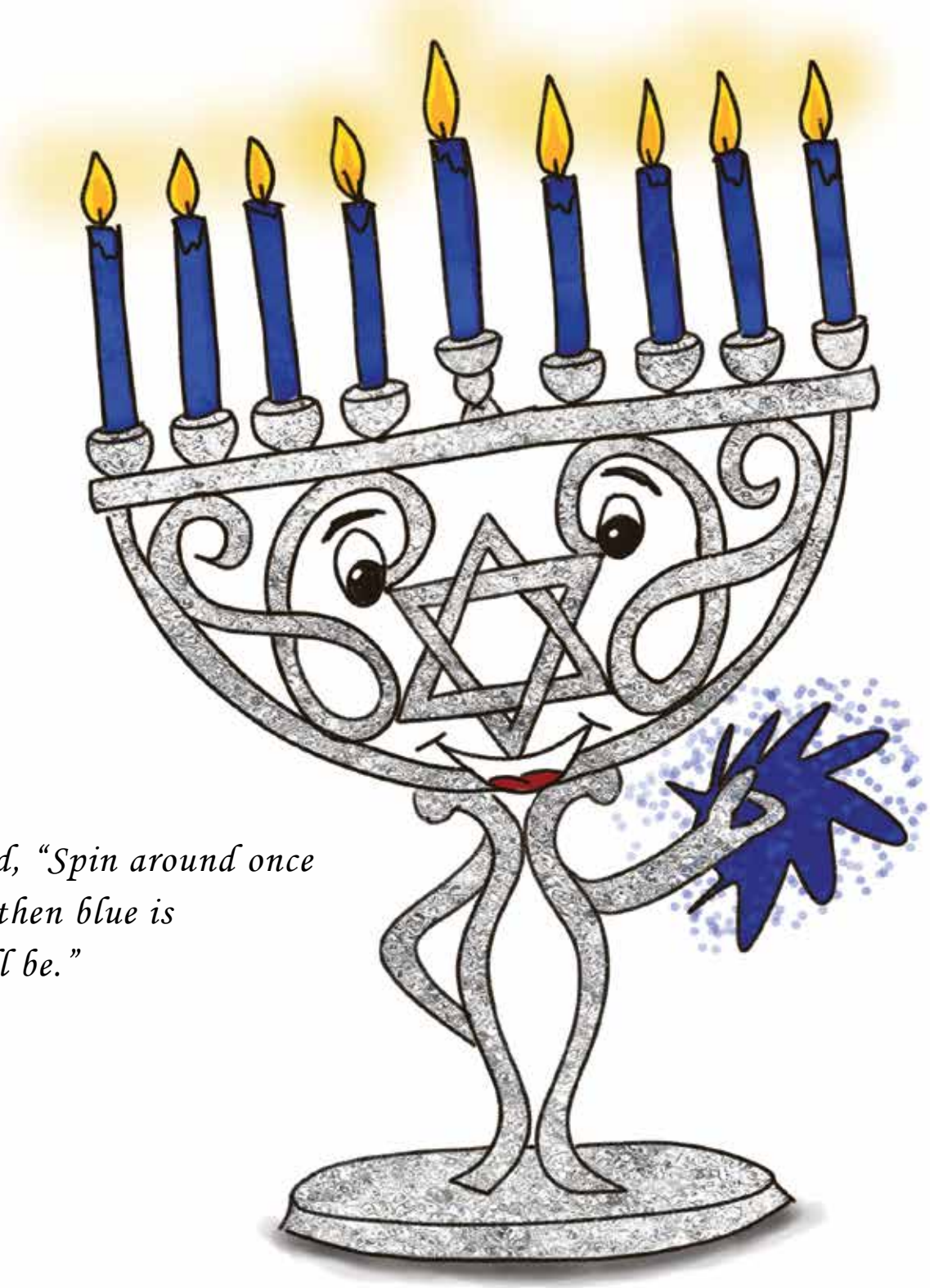
"It's Hanukkah, Little Dreidel. Why aren't you spinning in celebration?"



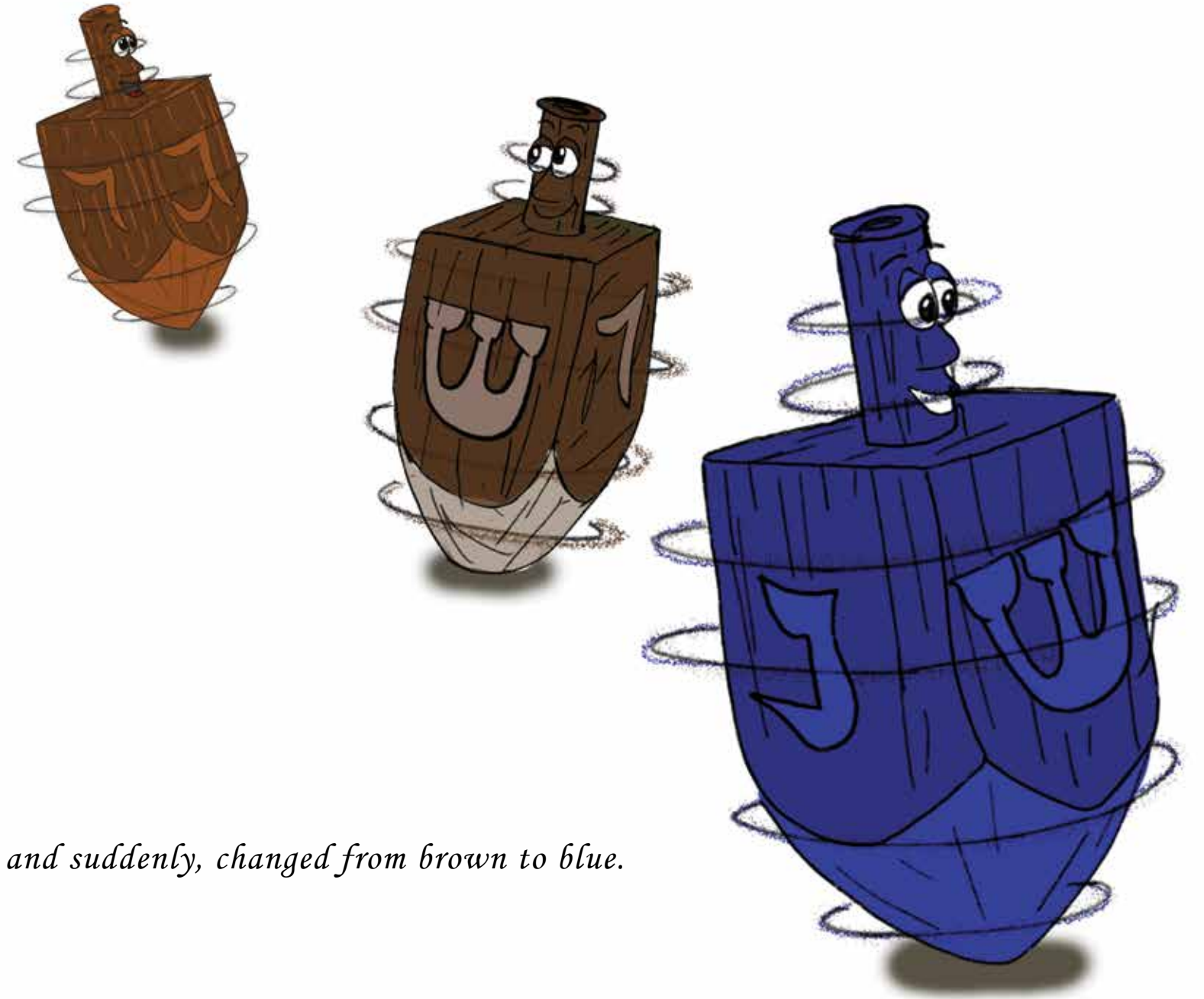
"Just look at me," replied Little Dreidel sadly. "I'm so plain. Your bright colored candles make you shimmer and shine. Everyone looks at you but nobody notices me. Even the blue tablecloth is prettier than me."



*Silver Menorah said, "Spin around once
and count to three then blue is
the color that you'll be."*



Little Dreidel spun and counted, "1, 2, 3,"...



...and suddenly, changed from brown to blue.

Happily, it twirled across the blue tablecloth just as Mommy carried in a plate of sizzling latkes, and Jake brought in a bowl of applesauce. They did not notice the blue dreidel whirling by.



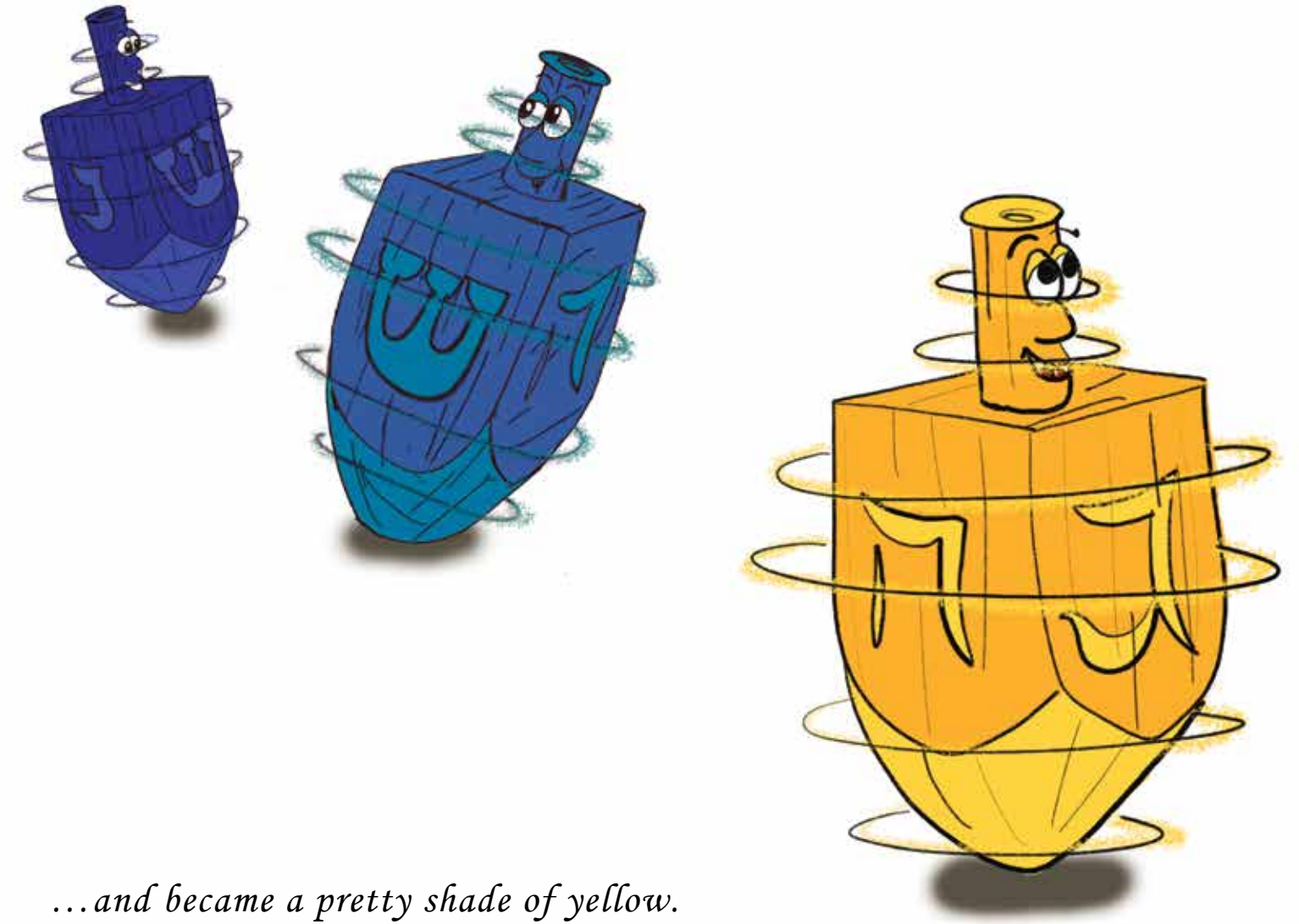
*"They didn't see me!" said Little Dreidel.
"Maybe I should be yellow like the applesauce."*





Silver Menorah replied, "Spin around once and count to three then yellow is the color that you'll be."

Little Dreidel spun and counted, "1, 2, 3,"...



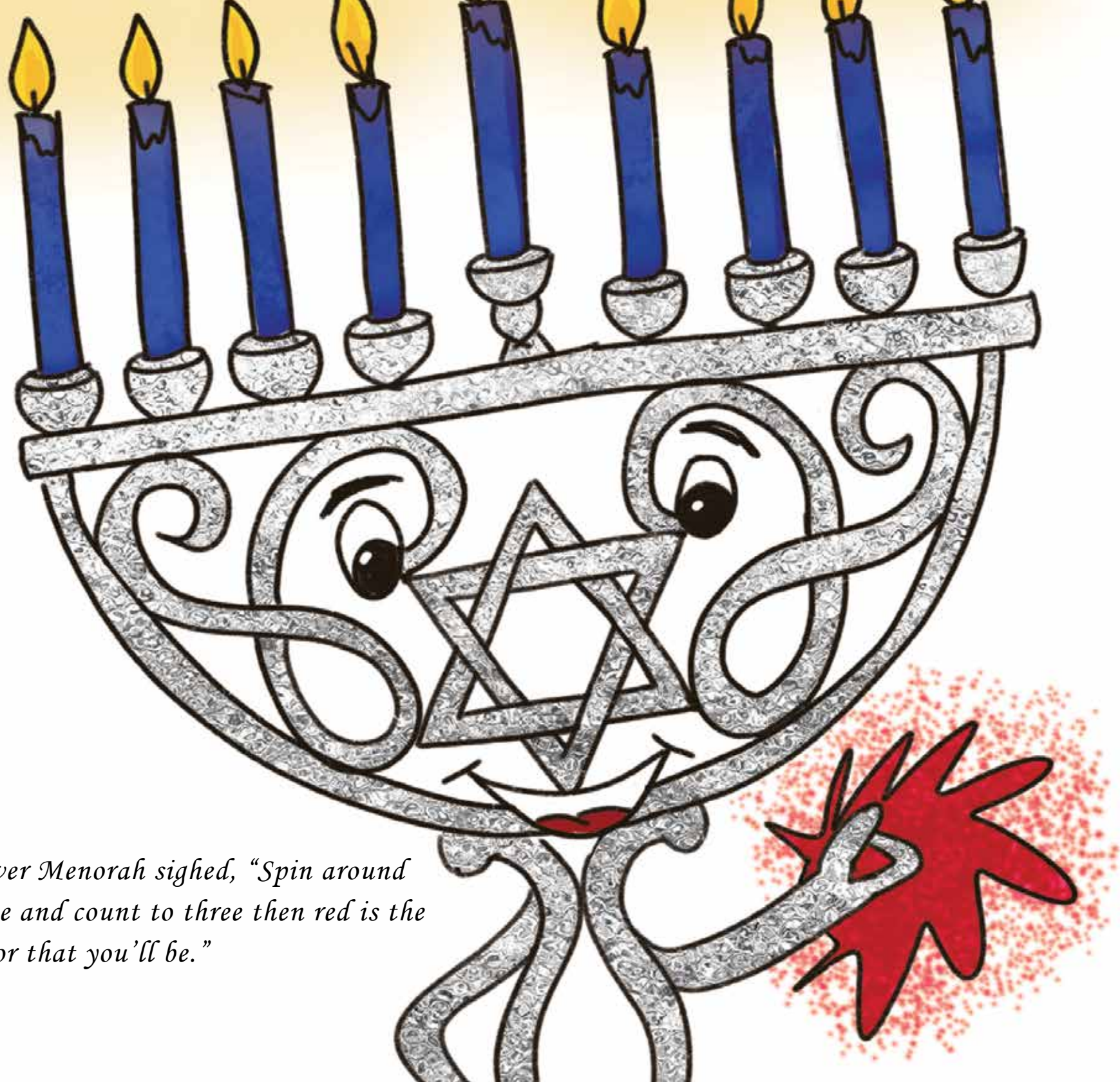
...and became a pretty shade of yellow.

But as Becky put a spoon in the applesauce, she did not notice the yellow dreidel dancing near the bowl.

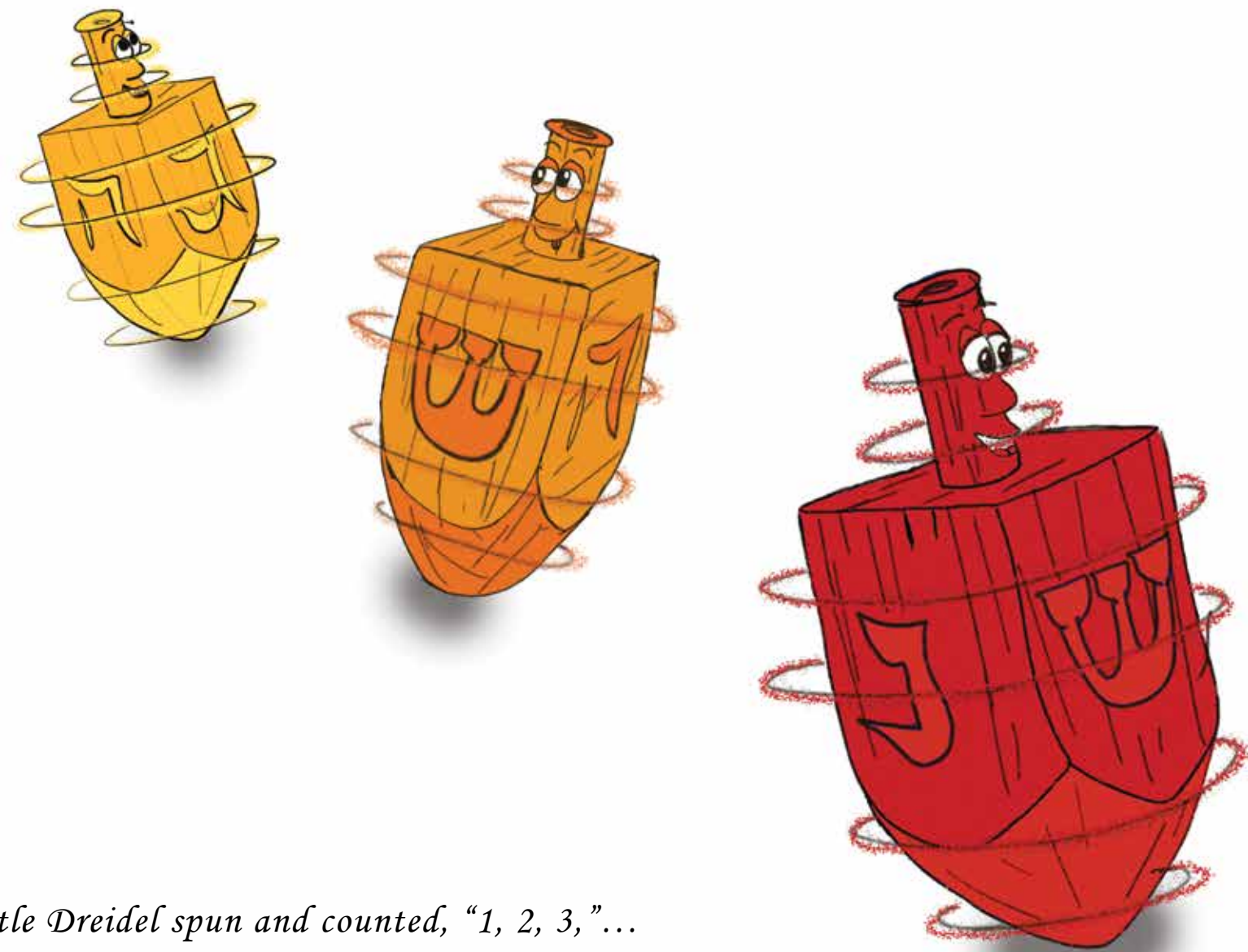


*When Daddy brought in a tray of donuts oozing with red jelly, Little Dreidel again changed its mind.
"Red is the perfect color for me!"*



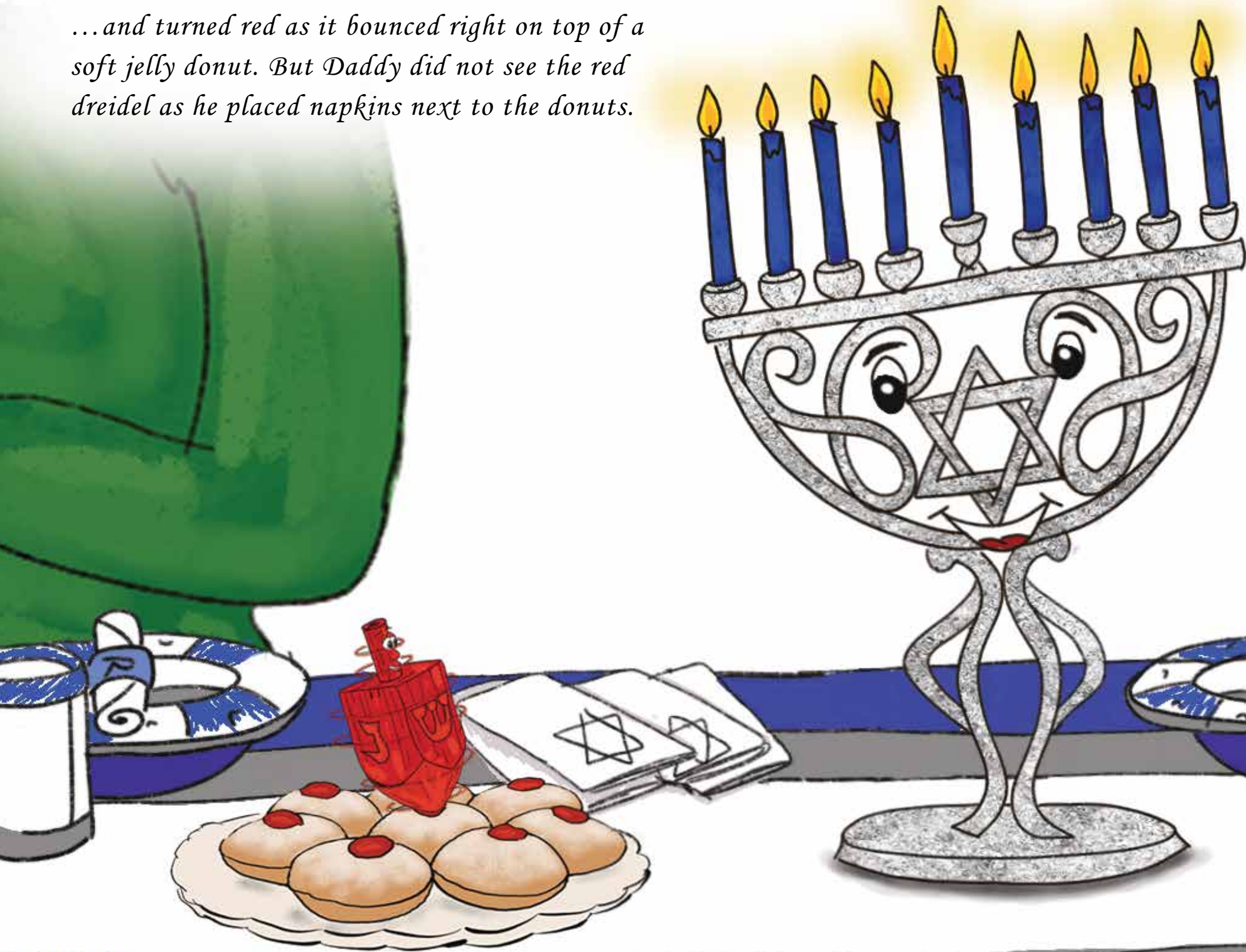


Silver Menorah sighed, "Spin around once and count to three then red is the color that you'll be."

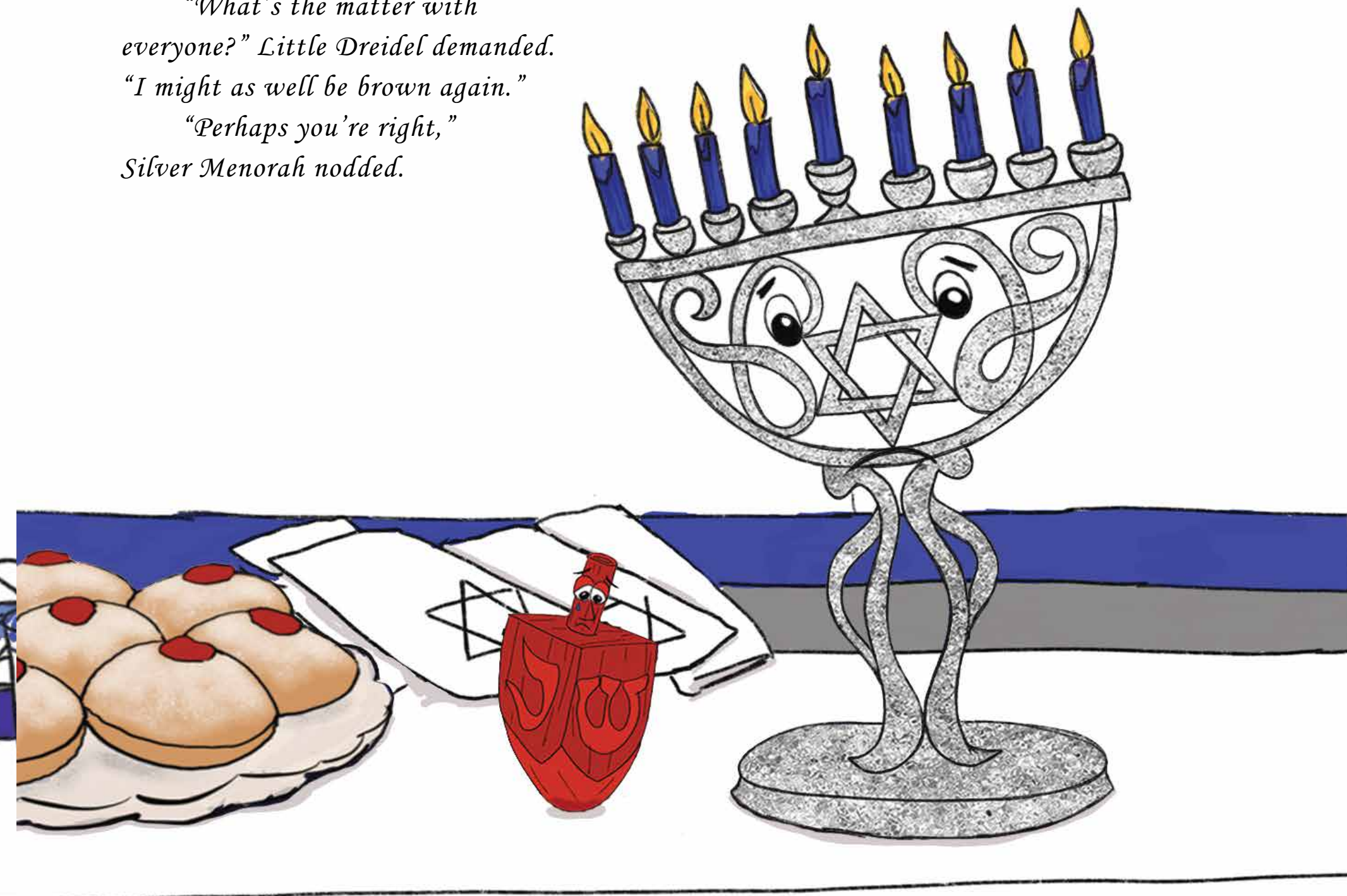


Little Dreidel spun and counted, "1, 2, 3,"...

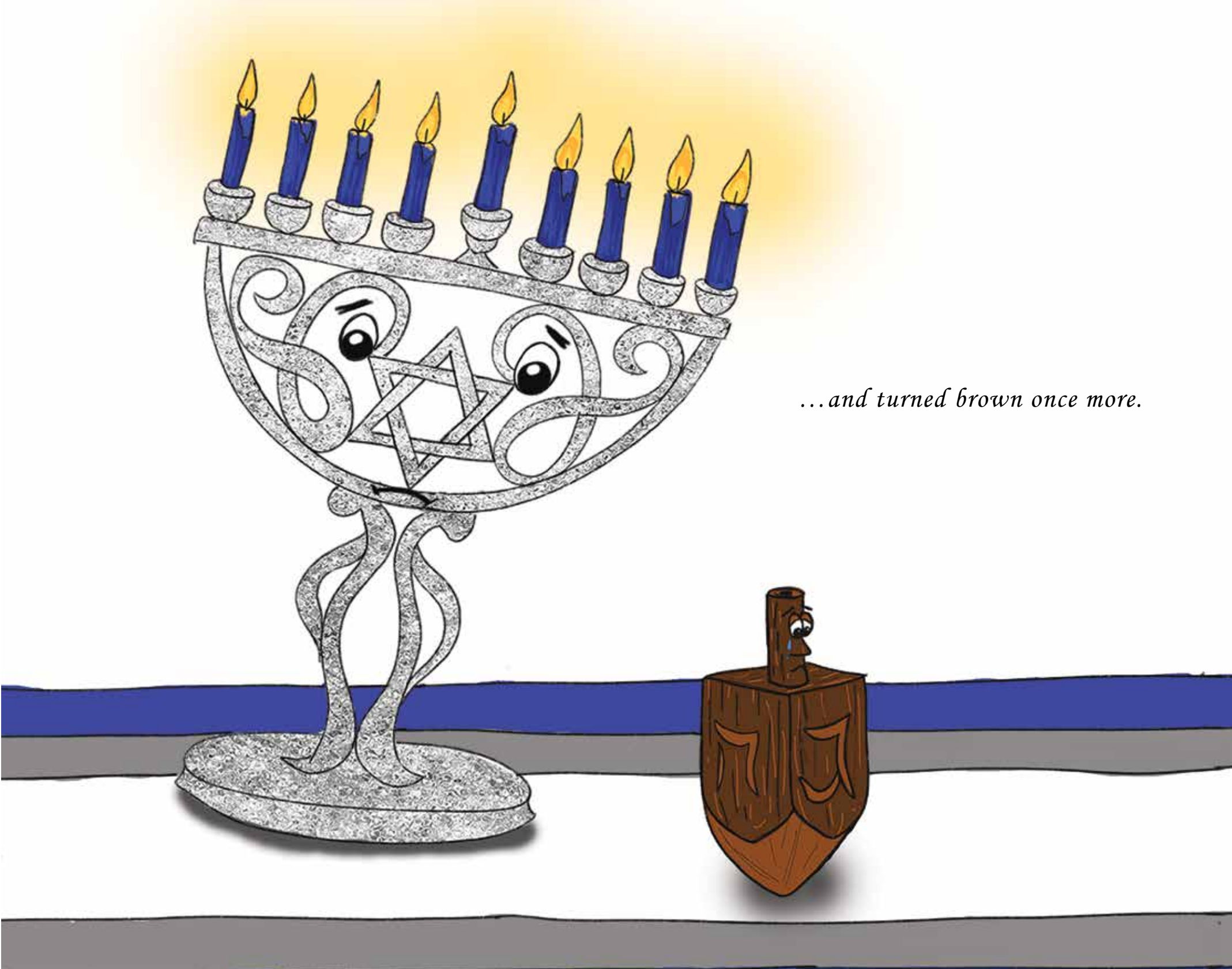
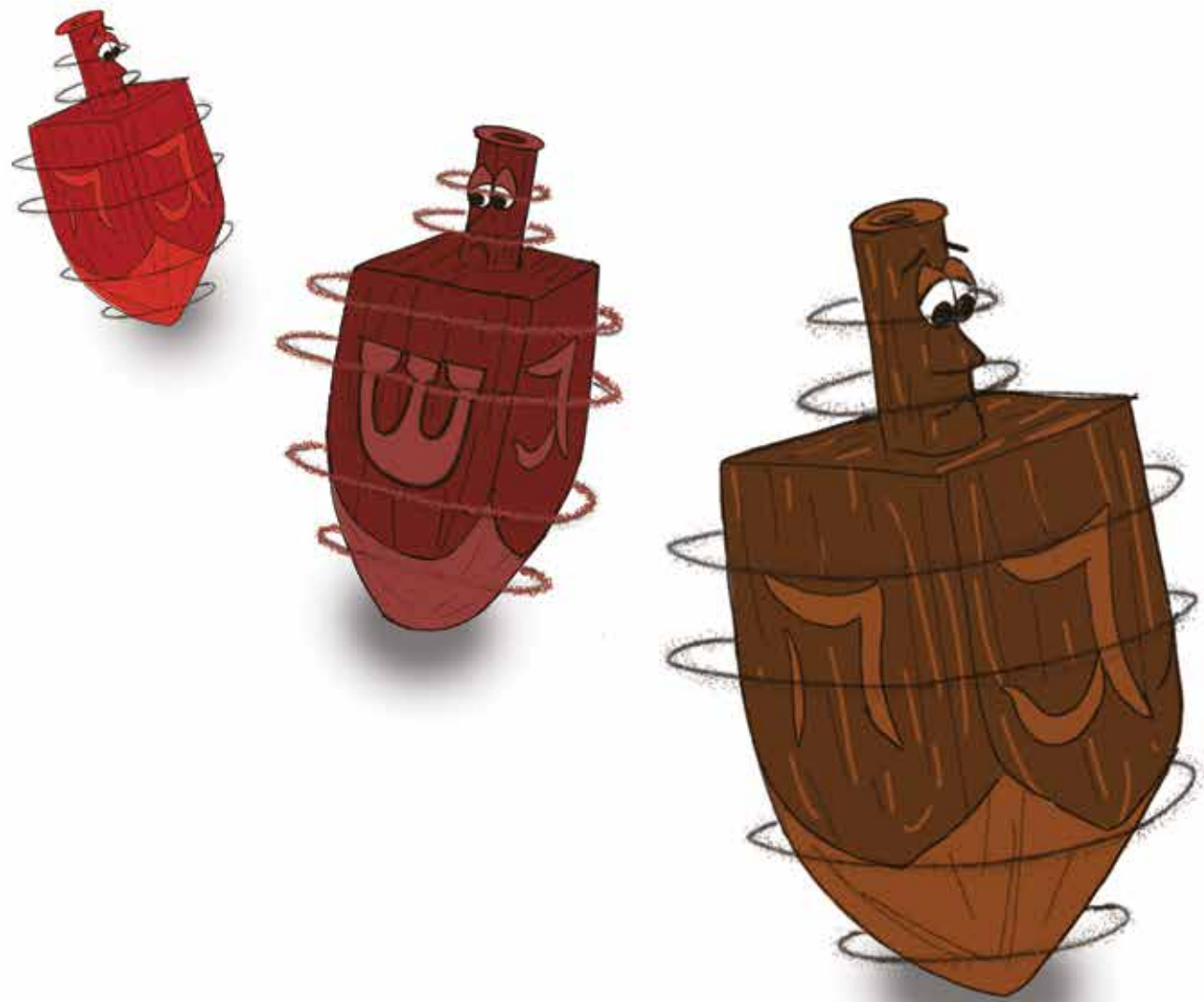
...and turned red as it bounced right on top of a soft jelly donut. But Daddy did not see the red dreidel as he placed napkins next to the donuts.



"What's the matter with everyone?" Little Dreidel demanded.
"I might as well be brown again."
"Perhaps you're right," Silver Menorah nodded.



Little Dreidel spun and sadly counted, "1, 2, 3,"...



...and turned brown once more.

As the family sat down for dinner, Daddy gave Jake and Becky a bag of Hanukkah gelt. The children squealed with delight at the chocolate coins wrapped in golden foil.

“They’re for after dinner,” Daddy winked. “We’ll use them when we play the dreidel game.”

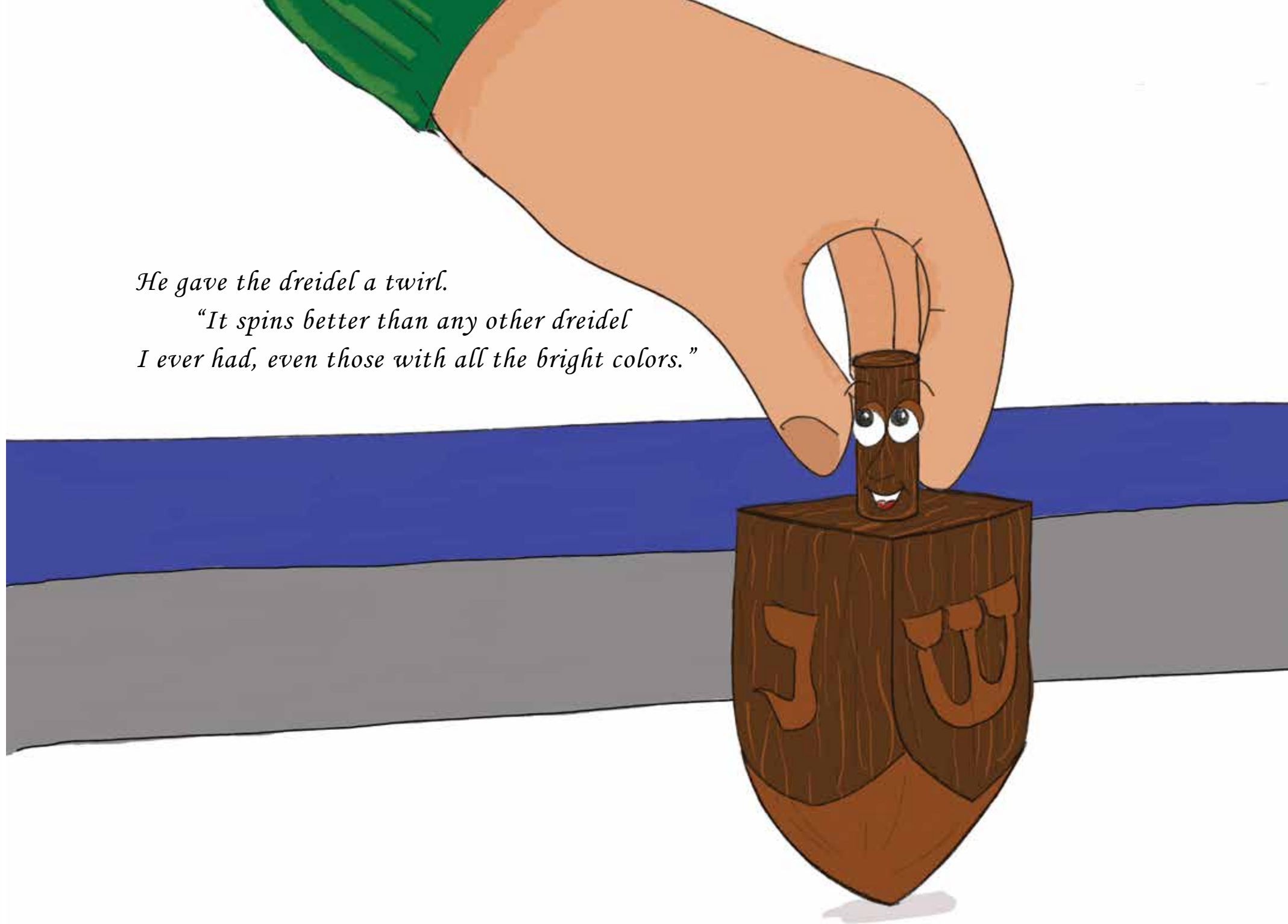


*Daddy smiled and reached for the wooden dreidel,
“This is a very special dreidel that your grand-
pa made for me when I was a little boy. I thought
it was lost, but it was right here the entire time”*

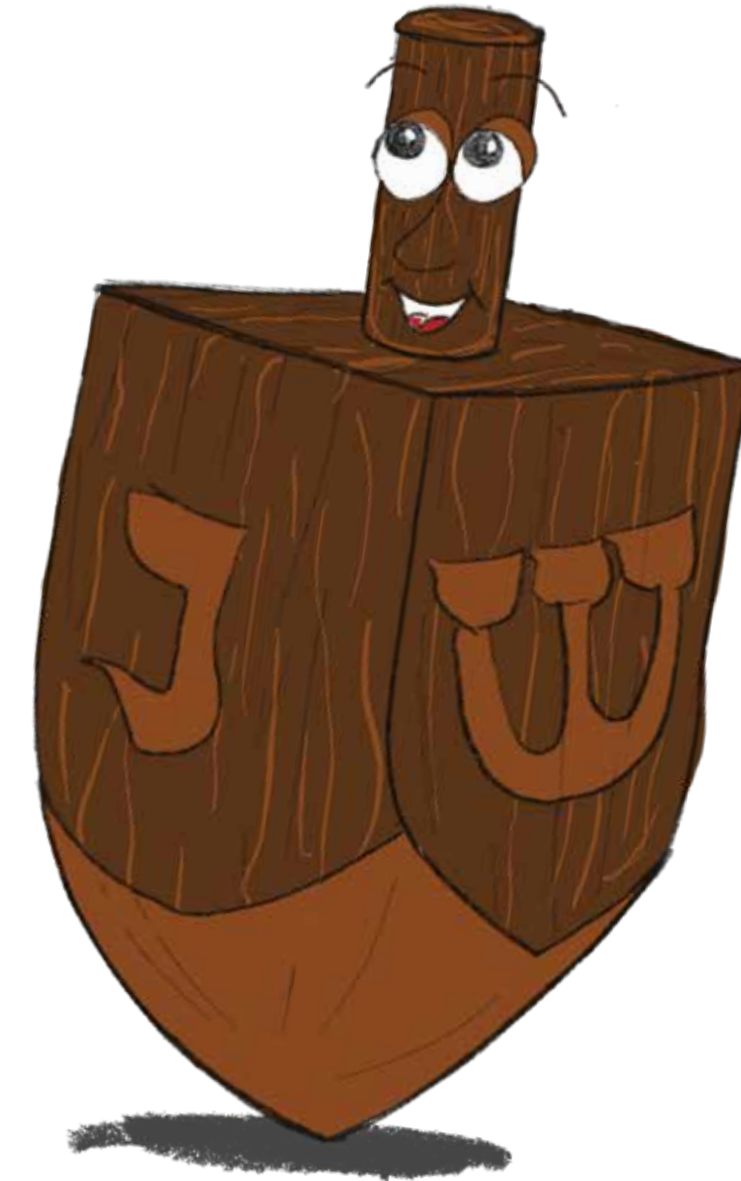


He gave the dreidel a twirl.

*“It spins better than any other dreidel
I ever had, even those with all the bright colors.”*



*Jake and Becky clapped their hands
as Little Dreidel danced joyously
across the table.*



*Silver Menorah smiled when it heard Little Dreidel shout, "See me
spin so merrily. I'm so happy to be me!"*

Hanukkah, O Hanukkah

(A Traditional Hanukkah Song)

O Hanukkah O Hanukkah, come light the menorah

Let's have a party, we'll all dance the hora

Gather round the table, we'll give you a treat

Dreidels to play with and latkes to eat

And while we are playing, the candles are burning low

One for each night, they shed a sweet light to remind us of days long ago

These are the prayers that are said by families when lighting the Hanukkah candles:

Blessing Over Candles at Hanukkah (said each night)

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melech ha'olam asher kidishanu
b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu l'had'lik neir Shel Hanukkah.*

*Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe who has
sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to light the
lights of Hanukkah.*

Blessing for Hanukkah (said each night)

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melech ha'olam she'asah nisim
la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baziman hazeh.*

*Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe who
performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time.*

Shehecheyanu (said only the first night)

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melech ha'olam shehecheyanu v'kiyimanu
v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.*

*Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe who has kept
us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.*

Author's Note to Parents about Hanukkah

Hanukkah is the Jewish holiday that is celebrated in the winter, usually in December, and lasts for eight days. It commemorates the victory of the Jewish people in their struggle for independence against the Ancient Greeks. When the Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated, a small amount of oil, enough for only one day, was found to light the holy menorah (lamp). Miraculously, it burned for eight days.

Today, the Hanukkah menorah or Hanukkiyah has a place for nine candles—one for each of the eight days plus a special place for the shamash (helper), that is used to light all the other candles. One candle is added on each night of the eight nights until it is ablaze with light on the last evening.

Special foods cooked in oil are eaten at Hanukkah as a reminder of the miracle of the oil. Latkes (potato pancakes) are served, as well as jelly donuts. Gift giving and the giving of Hanukkah gelt (money) has become a part of the tradition. Hanukkah gelt can be used to play the dreidel game. The dreidel is a four-sided top with a Hebrew letter on each side which stand for the Hebrew words, "A great miracle happened there."



Sylvia Rouss - Author

Sylvia is the award-winning author and early childhood educator who created the popular Sammy Spider and The Littlest Books. As an early childhood educator, the children in her classroom have been her inspiration. She has lectured throughout the United States, Europe and Israel.

T.L. Derby - Illustrator

T.L. Derby is a children's book Author and Illustrator. She has turned her love for writing and art into her career. Now she helps others to make their dreams come true as a publisher. She is educated with a BFA in Creative Writing for Entertainment and an MFA In Creative Writing. She is also an autodidact in illustrating, screenwriting, and painting for over 20 years. Her love for children makes what she does a gift from her to the world.

