



Thought for CHA

The Jewish Festival of Hannukah
28th November – 6th December

The Festival of Lights

Watch this [clip](#) to find out what the celebration is about



Read this quote and discuss as a class how it makes you feel

"At this time of year, when the sun is most hidden, the holiday of Hanukkah celebrates the rays of hope and light. Often, it is through simple and unrecognized miracles that we are able to feel the warmth of hope and light."

RAFAEL GOLDSTEIN



How is Hanukkah celebrated?

Discuss with the person next to you
the ways mentioned in the video



Read this quote and discuss as a class how it makes you feel

"Look at how a single candle
can both defy and define
the darkness."

ANNE FRANK

What is the symbolism?

Hanukkiah

- The nine-branched candelabra which is lit each night, and can often be seen in house windows. Hanukkah celebrations are centred around lighting the hanukkiah, and families will gather to light the candles together.
- So why this tradition? To remember the miracle that occurred following the destruction of the temple during a war...when the oil in the lamp burned for 8 days, when there was only enough for 1 day
- This reminds Jews today of the dedication that has been shown over the history of Judaism from this point in history



What is the symbolism?

Dreidel

- A dreidel is a type of spinning top which has Hebrew letters inscribed on each of the four sides. Together, the letters create an acronym for the phrase 'A great miracle happened there'.
- This is a reference to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.
- It has become a game played when Jews commemorate the miracle that happened at the Holy Temple
- There may be a deeper meaning behind this game. It is thought that when the Jewish people were living under the rule of the Syrian Greeks, they would read the Torah in secret. If they feared they were about to be discovered, they would hide the Torah and bring out the dreidel to play.



What is the symbolism?

Latke and Doughnuts

- Fried food is a common feature of Hanukkah celebrations in the UK, due to the significance of oil.
- By eating food cooked in oil, Jewish people remember the miracle of the oil in the Holy Temple.



Read this quote and discuss as a class how it makes you feel

"There are two ways of spreading light:
to be the candle
or the mirror that reflects it."

EDITH WHARTON

How can you bring light to people today?

'Dear God. We thank you for our families and for all the things we learn from our families at home. Thank you for the special times we spend together, having fun, playing games or telling stories. Help us to treasure these precious moments. Amen.'

