

Morning Cartoons

Eat Pray Invest

AUTHOR(S):	Jill Goldstein Smith
SUMMARY:	Join for a short film (and some delicious sugary cereal) and we'll think about how culture is passed down through family tradition (and draw our own cartoon storyboards, too)! - <i>Submitted by Jill Goldstein Smith</i>
TOPIC(S):	Culture, Film, Tradition
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will reflect on how they've wrestled with owning their Jewish cultural identity, consider how it's shaped them, and learn how films can spark great thoughtful discussions.
AUDIENCE:	Can be a group large or small, can be done with any folks ages 8-88 – but for younger kids, you may want to adjust the discussion questions and not read the article
TIMING:	45 minutes
APPENDICES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Excerpts from the article: SANJAY'S SUPER TEAM: Reconciliation Through Art ” • Storyboard Template
MATERIALS NEEDED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of “Sanjay’s Super Team” Pixar short film • Computer & Speakers to show film, and any necessary wiring • Optional: Projector + Screen (depending on group size) • Crayons • Paper (1-2 sheet per participant) • Hard surfaces to draw on (ground, table, clipboards) • Copies of “Excerpts from the article: SANJAY'S SUPER TEAM: Reconciliation Through Art” • Copies of storyboard template • Optional: sugary cereal & spoons & bowls (or individual cereal packages) & milk
SET-UP DETAILS:	Couches or comfy cushion seating arranged in a semi-circle. Need hard surfaces to draw on (tables or enough clipboards per person).

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

- 00:00 – 00:10 Welcome / Sharing favorite (Jewish) childhood memories
- 00:10 – 00:18 Sanjay’s Super Team (short animated movie)
- 00:18 – 00:35 Storyboarding: When you weren’t sure about how culture fits
- 00:35 – 00:45 Read Article + Discussion

Welcome / Sharing favorite (Jewish) childhood memories (10 mins)

Have the room set up with comfy seating and invite folks to grab a bowl of sugary cereal and a seat. Ideally couches will be set in a semi-circle facing a projector in a room where the lights can be dimmed. Spread crayons and handouts on tables ahead of time.

Invite people to think about a favorite memory of a childhood tradition, possibly something they did on weekend mornings (or not), possibly something Jewish (or not), possibly something they did with their family (or not), or maybe something important to their time at camp (or not). Invite people to go around and share if they are comfortable or willing.

Sanjay's Super Team, short animated movie (8 mins)

Have everyone get comfy and settle in for this short film (lasts a little more than 7 minutes). Make sure the lights are dimmed, and test video and audio levels beforehand. Ideally, have comfy couches in a semi-circle!

Storyboarding: Culture (17 mins)

Distribute a storyboard template to each person, along with crayons, and explain: animators often draft the outline of a story before animating the whole thing. It's almost like a comic book, but instead of every panel connecting the dots, they jump from one important moment of their journey to the next. Sometimes they get super focused in a moment along the journey, and sometimes they are more 'big-picture' focused. Either way, they make specific decisions about which moments to highlight.

Instruct everyone to take 5 minutes to begin to sketch out, in storyboard fashion, a moment or series of moments that stand out in your past in which you wrestled with your Jewish culture. This can have a positive outcome, a negative outcome, or perhaps an outcome you're still unsure of or wrestling with.

After about 5-10 minutes, depending on the size of the group, ask folks to turn to a few other people and share their drawings with a small group.

If time permits, ask a few people to share about their storyboard and why they chose to highlight those particular moments.

Read Article + Discussion (10 mins)

Pass out copies of the article to the small groups. Ask them to take a few minutes reading it together. Lead a discussion, thinking about the following questions:

- Is it important to keep culture? Why?
- Can culture change?
- Who owns Judaism/culture?
- Assimilation: good? bad? Messy/gray areas?
- Have you ever been challenged to hold on to your Jewish culture while balancing expression of other identities/culture?

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

You can also do this in the evening for a “movie night,” and instead of couches have everyone huddled in their sleeping bags!

There are lots of different ways to use cartoons and video as conversation starters! Consider using Wall-E (environmentalism), Finding Nemo (teamwork, diversity, perseverance), Brave (equality, determination), and more. Here are some fantastic articles to spark other ideas, using animated films (short and feature length) to learn deeper lessons about important Jewish values:

<http://www.archdaily.com/771987/4-lessons-pixar-films-can-teach-us-about-architecture>

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/17-lessons-pixar-taught-me>