

CORNERSTONE 2019 RESOURCE

Lessons for Camp from the Fools of Chelm

Elective

AUTHOR(S):	Asya Gribov
SUMMARY:	It is said we can learn a lot from a fool. How about the collective foolishness of a whole city? Through funny stories, puzzles, and riddles, participants will explore the amusing Jewish folktales of Chelm to uncover its simple wisdom that can teach us a lot about ourselves and our camp communities. – <i>Submitted by Asya Gribov</i>
TOPIC(S):	Jewish Texts, Storytelling, Young Children
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will become familiar with stories, games and ideas based on the Jewish folklore of Chelm.
AUDIENCE:	Staff, 10-30 people
TIMING:	60-90 minutes
APPENDICES:	It Could Always Be Worse Chelm Puzzle
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Printout 1- It Could Always Be Worse Printout 2 - Chelm Puzzle <u>Brainteasers from Jewish Folklore</u> by Rosalind Charney Kaye
SET-UP DETAILS:	This session can take place anywhere!

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

Energizer: Impromptu Theater

It Could Be Worse – A Folktale

Without telling participants what they are about to do, use masking tape to draw a square shape on the floor. The square should be enough to fit 8 people. Give select participants pieces of paper with their character. (This can be large and taped to their body once their role is revealed.) Assign, or let participants choose, the roles of the old man, his wife, the children, the rabbi, a child, two grandparents, a chicken, a goat, and a sheep. If the group has more participants, cast multiple chickens, goats, and sheep and other animals. The roles should be written on a piece of paper and not revealed to others. The narrator reads the story (Handout). As each character is mentioned, the role is acted out by the participants who received that role.

Dinner in Chelm Puzzle

Cut up the clue pieces and place around the room.

Participants, divided into teams, collect the clues and try to figure out who lives in what house and who visited whom.

Participants must work together in small groups to figure out the clues.

Debrief:

- What was challenging about this puzzle?
- What was rewarding?

Jewish Riddles Gameshow

Participants are divided into small groups of 3-5 people.

The host asks a riddle and each group must work together to solve the riddle in a given amount of time.

Brainteasers from Jewish Folklore by Rosalind Charney Kaye

Debrief:

- Why are Chelm stories prevalent in Jewish culture?
- What can we learn from these stories?
- How are the people of Chelm similar to campers?