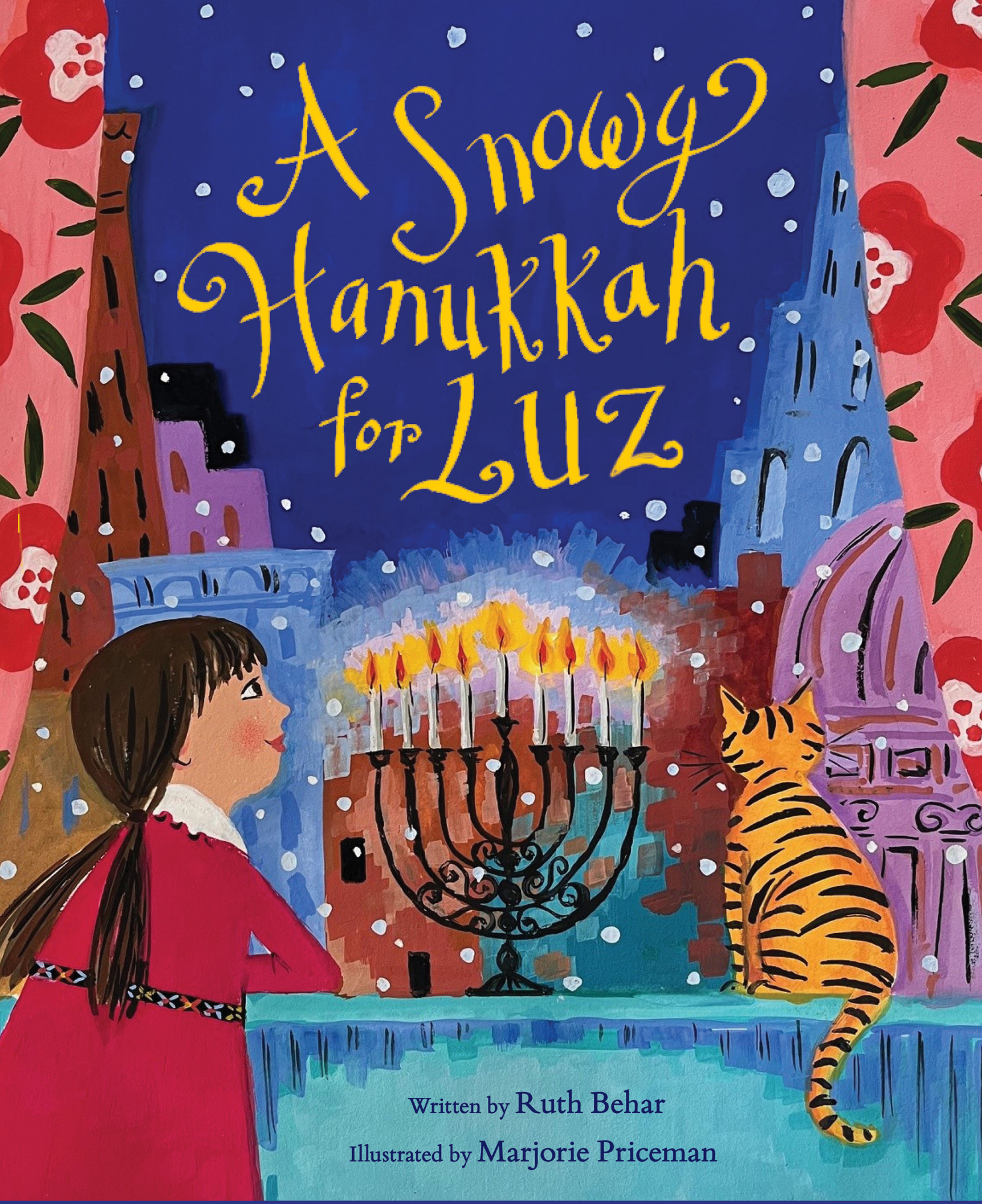
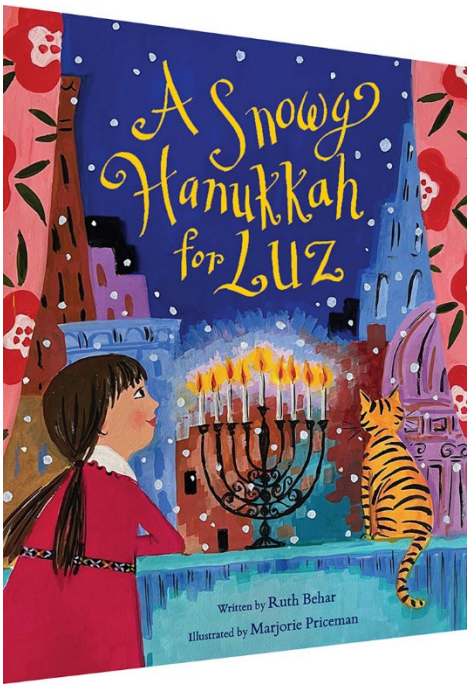



# Educators' Guide

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**By Ruth Behar**
**Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman**

## About the Author

**Ruth Behar** is the Newbery Honor and Pura Belpré Award–winning author of many books, including *Lucky Broken Girl* and *Across So Many Seas*. She was born in Havana, Cuba, grew up in New York, and has also lived in Spain and Mexico. She lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## About the Illustrator

**Marjorie Priceman** is the author and illustrator of many books for children including the bestselling *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*, which was turned into a musical. She has received two Caldecott Honors—for *Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride* and for *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin* by Lloyd Moss. She lives in Pennsylvania.

## About the Book

*In this joyful picture book, award-winners Ruth Behar and Marjorie Priceman have created a modern and accessible Hanukkah classic that incorporates both Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditions.*

Luz is helping her Abuelita and Abuelito celebrate the festival of lights, but it's going to take a miracle to get everything ready in time!

As Luz and Abuelita walk to the bodega for potatoes to make latkes, they talk about the miracle of Hanukkah—and the miracles that surround us. Each of the eight candles represents an everyday miracle like the kindness of community and the tradition of sharing stories. When snow starts to fall, it feels like the wonder of the holiday surrounds them and infuses their preparations and celebration with a special warmth.

This Educators' Guide was produced by Raisel Reissman, a NY-based literacy coach, edited by Ruth Behar, and designed by David Frye.

## Discussion Questions

1. What does the word "miracle" mean to you? Can you think of a person, a thing, or an event that seems miraculous to you? Can miracles be real, or do they only happen in made-up stories?
2. In the story, does the Hanukkah celebration just happen by itself? Who does what to bring the meal to the table on time?
3. How are games and songs and the menorah part of the Hanukkah holiday? What meanings do they have beyond their beauty and the history of the holiday?
4. Luz and Abuelita seem very close. What things do they do together in the story? How does Abuelito join in with them to get ready for the holiday?
5. Abuelita and Luz prepare both *latkes* (potato pancakes) and *rosquitas* (Spanish doughnuts) for the Hanukkah party. Why is it important to remember different food traditions in their family?
6. Do you know what the song "Ocho Kandelikas" means? Can you sing it?

## Finding Connections with the Story

1. Think of a holiday or a festival your family celebrates. Make a list of the steps you or your family have to do to get ready for the celebration. Do you eat any special foods? List the menu and the ingredients in that menu. Who gets the ingredients? Who prepares the food and the space? What are the steps that have to be made to make the event happen? Do you know the meaning or history behind the event or traditions?
2. Do you know any traditional songs or music that goes with a holiday, a festival, or another sort of celebration? Are any games played in connection with this celebration? What are they?
3. Have you ever been treated with such amazing kindness by a friend or a neighbor that it felt like a miracle?
4. Luz says that one of the miracles is the miracle of stories. Why do you think she says that? How can stories be a miracle?
5. Another miracle that Abuelita mentions is that everyone has their own unique light, a light inside. If you had to choose a unique quality about yourself, what would it be? What makes you YOU?



Name _____

# Thinking About Miracles

Abuelita in the story says, “We are surrounded by miracles! Can you think of a miracle?” Choose an everyday miracle from your life and make a picture of it.



Name _____

# Sharing a Favorite Holiday Tradition

Choose a holiday your family celebrates and make a picture of all the people who gather together and their activities. This can include preparing special foods, singing, dancing, lighting candles, and telling stories.

