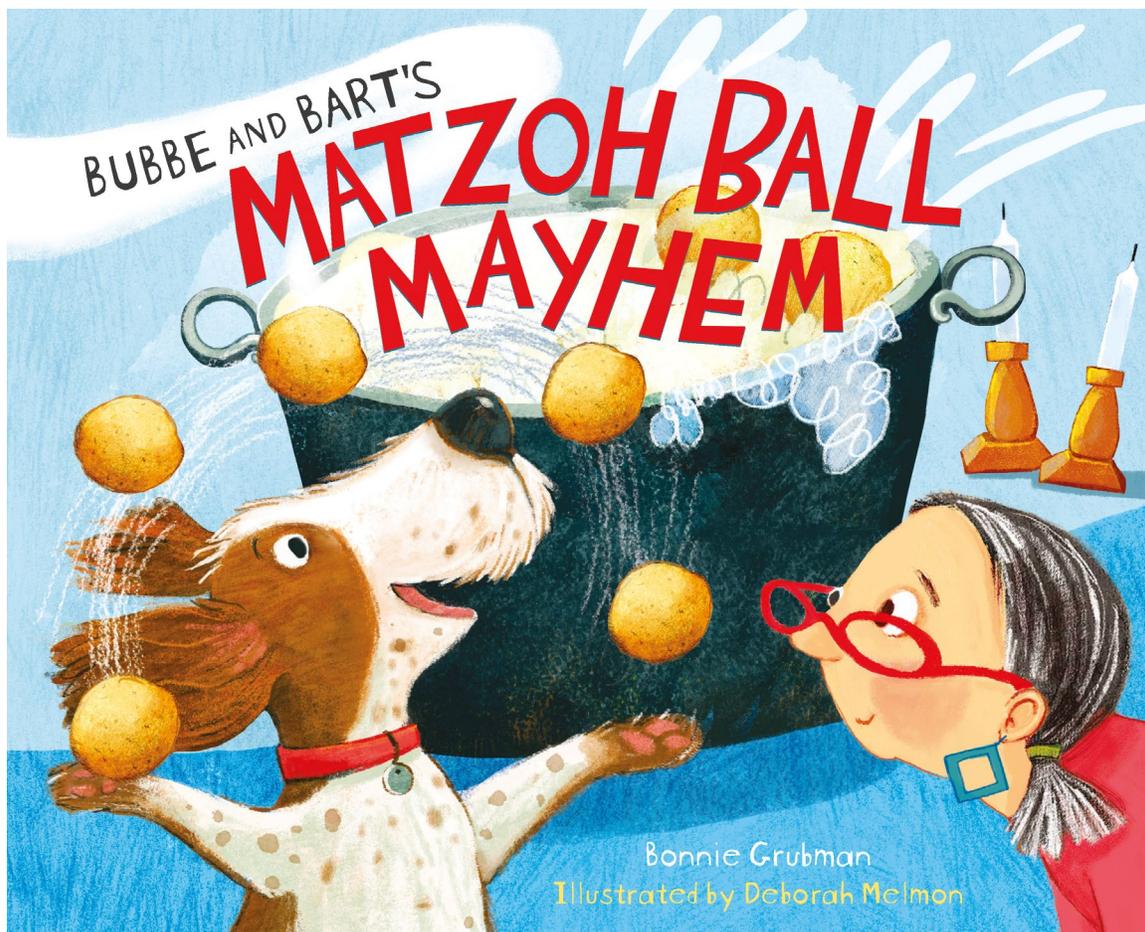


A Teacher's Guide for  
*Bubbe and Bart's  
Matzoh Ball Mayhem*

written by Bonnie Grubman  
illustrated by Deborah Melmon



*Bubbe and Bart's Matzoh Ball Mayhem* Text © Bonnie Grubman 2021  
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Praise for *Bubbe and Bart's Matzoh Ball Mayhem*

***“This modern-day Jewish tall tale makes for an unconventional,  
fun Shabbat read-aloud.”***

–Kirkus Reviews

## Story Summary

When Bubbe begins getting ready for Shabbat, her Jewish puppy Bart wants a matzoh ball and not some liver treat.

When Bubbe starts cooking the matzoh balls, the pot starts making strange sounds. Soon it bubbles over and matzah balls begin flying... in number order.

Bart chases after each matzoh ball. Eventually he and Bubbe become a matzoh ball chasing team, even turning into a magic act, Bubbe and the great Bartini, to make the matzoh balls disappear.

Finally, on the seventh matzoh ball, they rested peacefully in the pot. And Bubbe and Bart clean up the kitchen and get themselves ready for Shabbat.

Bubbe and Bart hosts Bubbe's family for a lovely and delicious Shabbat dinner.

And after the guests leave, Bubbe and Bart enjoy resting and Bart dreams of more matzoh ball mayhem.



## About the Author



As a child growing up in New York City, it wasn't unusual to find little Bonnie Grubman on her fire escape with a stack of books, immersed in fiction and mesmerized by the brilliant illustrations. Nowadays, the veteran early childhood educator is dedicated to preserving the magic of childhood by creating her own stories that will make children wonder, laugh out loud and open their minds to all possibilities. Bonnie and her husband live in the suburbs. They have two grown children, exhilarating twin grandsons, and fond memories of their distinguished rescue dog, Rusty... who was a clever food thief with skilled paws, and a pure heart.



## About the Illustrator

Encouraged by her high school art teacher, Deborah Melmon began her professional career painting storefront windows during the holiday seasons. After graduating from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, her artwork launched the advertising campaign for Legoland in San Diego and she created murals for two discovery rooms at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. She has illustrated over fifty children's books for clients that include Viking Children's Books, Scholastic, Parragon UK, Boyds Mills & Kane, Kar-Ben Publishing, Penguin Young Readers Group, and Sleeping Bear Press. Deborah lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Learn more at [deborahmelmon.com](http://deborahmelmon.com) and on Instagram @deborahmelmon.

**Prior to Reading (help to activate students' prior knowledge for those students who already know about Shabbat):**

Ask students:

What special things can you do to celebrate Shabbat?

What can you do to get ready for Shabbat?

What are your favorite foods for Shabbat?

Also discuss:

What is a tall tale?

Point out the exaggerated, over-the-top claims and language to be found within a tall tale.



## Possible Post-Reading Activities:

### LITERATURE / STORY ANALYSIS:

#### TALL TALES:

Discuss / Create a Class List:

What features of language make *Bubbe and Bart* stand out as a tall tale?

How does the author, Bonnie Grubman, use fun, zany and over-the-top exaggeration to make her story into a tall tale?

Read other tall tales and compare them to *Bubbe and Bart*.

How are they alike?

How are they different?

What elements make them a tall tale?

### WRITING:

Write your own tall tale or (if you are a Jewish school), write your own Jewish tall tale.

What fun language can you use to show the reader it's a tall tale?

What story details can you push to a fun and funny extreme?



## COOKING:

### “Bubbe’s Magical Matzoh Balls”

Make Together with Careful Adult Assistance / Supervision  
or Send Recipe Home with Students to Enjoy!

(Bubbe’s recipe courtesy of Bonnie Grubman,  
author of *Bubbe and Bart’s Matzoh Ball Mayhem*)

### Bubbe's Marvelous Matzo Balls (Makes 16)

#### YOU WILL NEED:

potholders, 2 measuring cups, (one for dry ingredients and one for wet) medium bowl, slotted spoon, fork or whisk, medium pot

#### YOU WILL WANT:

- a hearty appetite
- to double the recipe for the neighbors

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups matzo meal
- 6 **large** eggs (Any other egg size will change the consistency)
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 6 tablespoons chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons chopped dill
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt for the pot



#### DIRECTIONS:

- Thoroughly mix eggs with your fork or whisk. Add oil, broth, salt, pepper, and dill. Mix well. Add matzo meal and mix until combined. Put in fridge for at least 45 minutes to one hour.
- Bring 12 cups of water to a boil in pot. Add 2 tablespoons of salt.
- With slightly wet hands, roll mixture into 1 1/2 inch-ish balls and place them on a plate until you are ready to add them to the boiling water.
- Carefully lower the matzo balls into the water with your slotted spoon and reduce heat to simmer.  
Cover pot, with tight lid, and simmer for 35 to 40 minutes. The matzo balls will be perfectly puffy. Turn off the heat and  
let the marvelous matzo balls sit in the pot until you are ready to serve your happy, hungry guests.

## MATH:

Create a class graph:

- What is your favorite part of Shabbat?
- What parts of Shabbat did the most students like?



A Math Problem from *BUBBE AND BART*

In the book, matzoh balls keep flying from one matzoh ball all the way up to seven.

Ask your students to calculate:

How many matzoh balls are there in all?

(What strategies- including math manipulatives or drawings- can younger students use to figure out this answer?)

## ART / PHOTOGRAPHY:

Draw a picture of you and your family celebrating Shabbat.

and/or Draw a picture or take a photo of your Jewish dog or pet.

Create a bulletin board display of your Jewish dogs or pets.

(Make sure to send us a photo of your bulletin board.

We would love to see it!)

Create your own Jewish ritual items – challah covers, challah platters, kiddush cups for celebrating Shabbat with your class.

## DRAMA:

Act out the drama of getting ready for Shabbat with your class.

First act out the regular zaniness of getting ready for Shabbat.

Then pretend to add in some flying matzoh balls!