

3: Short story excerpt, Mendele Moykher-Sforim, “What’s the Meaning of Hanukkah?”, translation from Yiddish.

At that time, and maybe today too, for Jewish boys who’re stuck in *kheyder* like chickens in cages from early in the morning until nine o’clock at night, there was no better time of year than the eight days of Hanukkah. No small thing, Hanukkah! You didn’t have to study, you got Hanukkah *gelt* from your mother and father, from your aunts and uncles, your grandmas and grandpas . . . you played dreydl, you made deals, and if you got really lucky, you also got to halve potatoes and make them into Hanukkah lamps for your father—in short, you lived like God in Odessa!