

**Using  
*HUMONGOUS PUSHKA IN THE SKY*  
in the classroom**

*HUMONGOUS PUSHKA IN THE SKY* is all about imagination – about looking up at the sky and discovering ways that we can each help to heal the world. It's about developing and strengthening children's moral imagination.

The following activities are intended for use after reading the story. Each grows out of a theme in the book and helps children to participate in making reality into dreams and making our dreams real.

**CLOUDS:**

Make a classroom bulletin board using a black background.  
Students cut out 'mitzvah cloud' shapes and glue them onto the board.  
The teacher might add some texture and interest to the bulleting board by adding cotton clouds.  
Shapes could be turned into class mitzvah projects, i.e., a shoe or hand could become a shoe or glove/mitten drive; a cookie could be a cooking project to be delivered to a local group home.

**STARS:**

Using the attached sheet, students connect the stars to make an item that could be mitzvah-related.  
Continue as above, turning the ideas into projects.  
Copies of some of the sheets might go home for families to use as mitzvah project ideas.  
Older students might name 'their' constellation with a name that teaches something about their mitzvah idea.

**HANDS:**

Distribute hand outlines to students.  
Have students decorate 'their' hand(s) with appropriate embellishments (nail polish, jewelry, sporting glove, etc.)  
On their personal hand(s), have students indicate ways (using drawings or words) they can help the world by using their hands. *Upper grade helpers or senior citizen volunteers could provide need dictation services in the project.*  
The class might make a book for distribution to other students entitled WE USE OUR HANDS TO HEAL THE WORLD. *The book might be sold to parents (and grandparents!) to benefit a class tzedakah project.*

**THE MITZVAH ALPHABET:**

- *Using either the English alphabet or the Hebrew alephbet, make a mural that is within reach of students. As students do projects or perform mitzvot have them decorate the corresponding first letter of 'their' mitzvah with appropriate words or drawings.*
- OR
- *The mitzvah alphabet could be played as an on-going game. Students try to think up words that start with the correct letter and can be used to do mitzvot.*

*For example: A is for apple – We can pick apples and bring them to people in assisted living facilities or We can have our parents drive us to take some senior citizens to pick apples.*

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