

Comprehension Workbook 5

Shabbat

(The Sabbath)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 5

Shabbat

(The Sabbath)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Jewish faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Jewish Faith, Synagogue, Jewish art and writing and Jewish holy days books.)

Contents

Unit: Shabbat

	Shabbat	2
	Understanding words	4
	Finding key words	5
	Summarising	6
	Sequencing	7
	Get to the facts (AF 2-3)	8
	Whys and wherefores (AF 4-5)	9
	Opinions matter (AFs 6-7)	10
	Talking it through	11
	Make a story...	12
	Print the story (from PDF)	13

Shabbat

The most important holiday in Judaism actually happens every week. This is the sabbath, or Shabbat, the day of rest. In Judaism, Shabbat lasts from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. In ancient times, the idea of resting one day each week was unheard of. In fact, the ancient Greeks thought Jews were lazy because they set aside a whole day where they did not do any work. Here is a description of a typical Shabbat for an observant Jew.

We begin to prepare for Shabbat on Friday afternoon. We clean the house and prepare the meals we are going to eat for the next day. During Shabbat, we cannot use any electricity, so things like lights, oven and the furnace must be put on timers. Lights that come on automatically, like the refrigerator light, are unscrewed.

Just before the sun sets, my mother lights the Shabbat candles. These are two candles that stand for two commandments from God about Shabbat – to observe Shabbat and to remember the importance of Shabbat. We also say a blessing over the candles.

Then my father says a blessing to me and my sister:
May God Bless you and guard you.
May the light of God shine upon you, and may God be gracious to you.
May the presence of God be with you and give you peace.

After the blessings, we go to the synagogue for a short worship service. Then it is time for the Shabbat meal. We use the best dishes and everyone wears their nicest clothes for the meal. The meal begins with a blessing called the kiddush.

Then we say a blessing over the bread. On Shabbat we eat a special bread called challah, which is made with eggs and butter and twisted into a braid. Then we eat dinner. After dinner there is one more blessing – the grace after meals – and then we all clean up and go to bed.

On Saturday morning we get up early and go to synagogue. There are services and also Shabbat school, where the children learn Hebrew, study the Torah and play games. After synagogue we go home. On Shabbat, we are not allowed to do any work, use money or turn on anything that uses electricity, so I cannot watch television or use the computer, telephone or iPod. But we can read, play games, go for walks and play with friends. Sometimes I arrange the day before to go to a friend's house, and other times I stay at home and read. It's nice to relax and not worry about having to do schoolwork for one day a week. It's also nice to have a day when mom and dad are not working or running errands.

Shabbat ends when three stars are visible in the sky – or at sundown. The last thing we do is to say a blessing called Havdalah over wine, spices and candles. The spices are a reminder of the sweetness of Shabbat. We then wish each other a good week and have another nice meal. This is usually a stew that has been cooking all night.

After dinner Shabbat is over, so I can watch television or use the computer, but sometimes I don't want to because it's nice to have the feeling of Shabbat for a bit longer.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'blessing'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'blessing' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'blessing'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'blessing'.

e What is an example of a 'blessing' from the story.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: guard	protect

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

123
4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



Shabbat ends when three stars are visible in the sky – or at sundown.

We clean the house and prepare the meals we are going to eat for the next day.

We then wish each other a good week and have another nice meal.

After synagogue we go home.

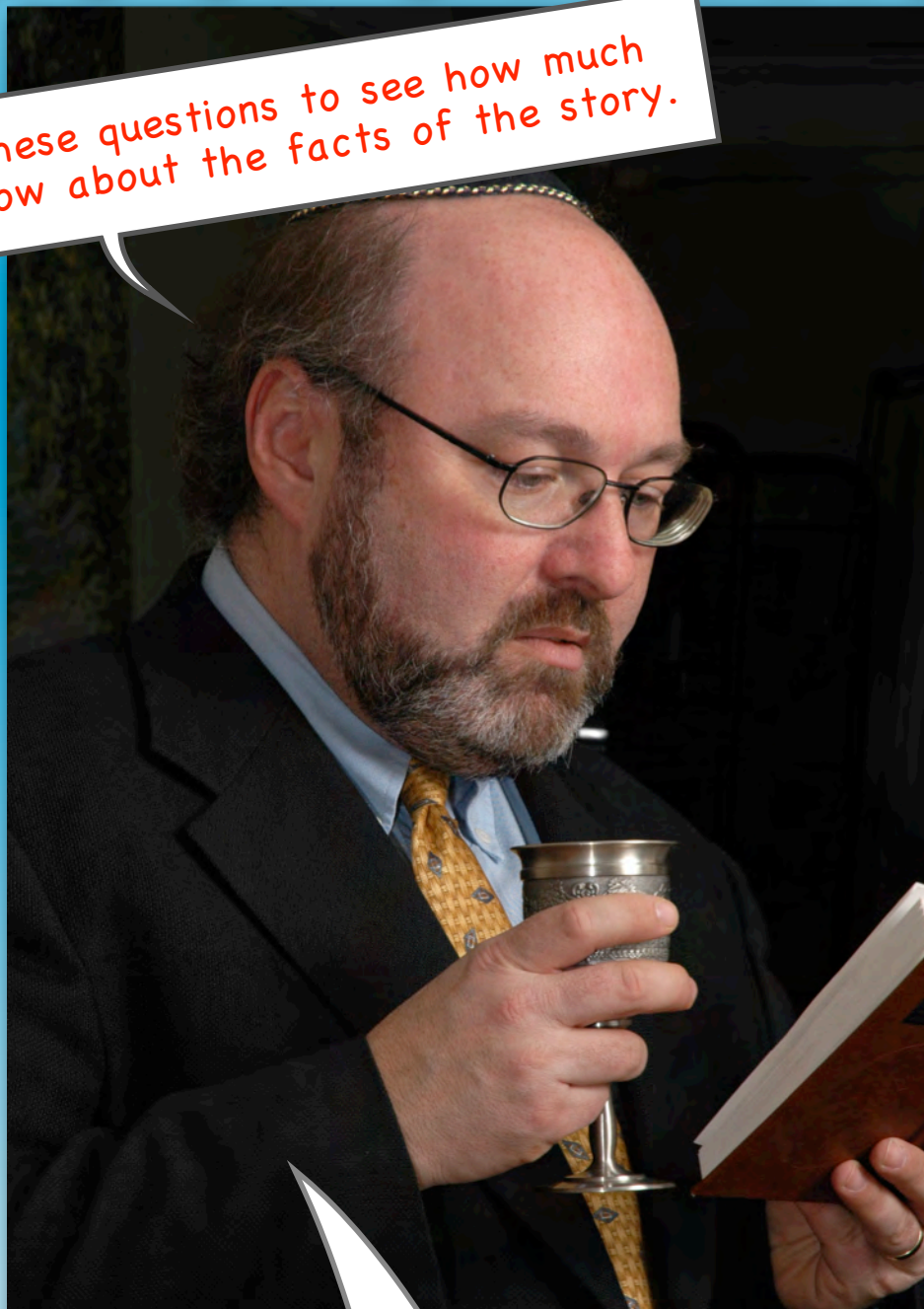
Just before the sun sets, my mother lights the Shabbat candles.

After dinner there is one more blessing – the grace after meals – and then we all clean up and go to bed.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



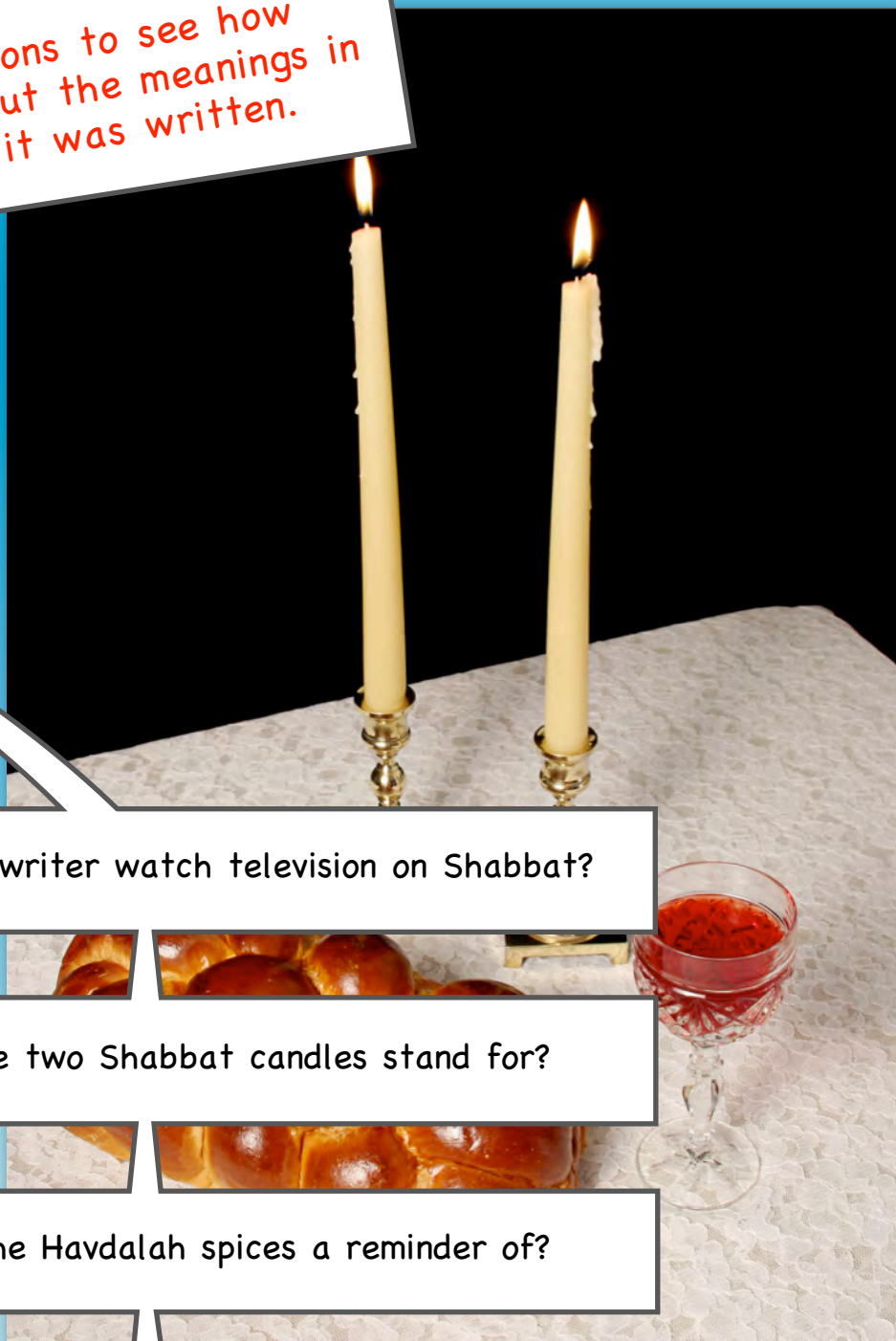
Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) What things are done before sundown on Shabbat?
- (b) What is the first blessing that is said on Shabbat?
- (c) What is the name of the blessing said before eating the Shabbat meal?
- (d) What does the family do on Saturday morning?
- (e) When does Shabbat end?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why can't the writer watch television on Shabbat?

2 What do the two Shabbat candles stand for?

3 What are the Havdalah spices a reminder of?

4 What parts of Shabbat does the writer like the best?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

1 Do you think it is important to have a day of rest each week?

2 How would you feel if you had to spend one day each week without using a telephone, television or computer?

3 If you were going to set aside a day each week to rest – what sorts of things would you do?

4 How do you think the narrator feels during Shabbat? Is he happy, bored, tired?

5 Why do you think it is important for the whole family to eat their meals together on Shabbat?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Day of rest

Discuss some of the reasons why it might be good to have a day of rest each week. Do you agree with the narrator that it is nice to spend a day without using money, watching television or using computers? What parts of Shabbat would you find difficult? What parts would you like?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



A day of rest

It is late Friday afternoon. As you walk in the door, all of the electricity suddenly goes out. It's a power failure. Your mobile phones are also out of power. Your parents light some candles and now you all have to think of something to do that does not involve using electricity.

(Now continue the story of describing what you and your family would do to entertain yourselves without television, computers, radio, phones or iPads...)

Shabbat

The most important holiday in Judaism actually happens every week. This is the sabbath, or Shabbat, the day of rest. In Judaism, Shabbat lasts from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. In ancient times, the idea of resting one day each week was unheard of. In fact, the ancient Greeks thought Jews were lazy because they set aside a whole day where they did not do any work. Here is a description of a typical Shabbat for an observant Jew.

We begin to prepare for Shabbat on Friday afternoon. We clean the house and prepare the meals we are going to eat for the next day. During Shabbat, we cannot use any electricity, so things like lights, oven and the furnace must be put on timers. Lights that come on automatically, like the refrigerator light, are unscrewed.

Just before the sun sets, my mother lights the Shabbat candles. These are two candles that stand for two commandments from God about Shabbat – to observe Shabbat and to remember the importance of Shabbat. We also say a blessing over the candles.

Then my father says a blessing to me and my sister:
May God Bless you and guard you.
May the light of God shine upon you, and may God be gracious to you.
May the presence of God be with you and give you peace.

After the blessings, we go to the synagogue for a short worship service. Then it is time for the Shabbat meal. We use the best dishes and everyone wears their nicest clothes for the meal. The meal begins with a blessing called the kiddush.

Then we say a blessing over the bread. On Shabbat we eat a special bread called challah, which is made with eggs and butter and twisted into a braid. Then we eat dinner. After dinner there is one more blessing – the grace after meals – and then we all clean up and go to bed.

On Saturday morning we get up early and go to synagogue. There are services and also Shabbat school, where the children learn Hebrew, study the Torah and play games. After synagogue we go home. On Shabbat, we are not allowed to do any work, use money or turn on anything that uses electricity, so I cannot watch television or use the computer, telephone or iPod. But we can read, play games, go for walks and play with friends. Sometimes I arrange the day before to go to a friend's house, and other times I stay at home and read. It's nice to relax and not worry about having to do schoolwork for one day a week. It's also nice to have a day when mom and dad are not working or running errands.

Shabbat ends when three stars are visible in the sky – or at sundown. The last thing we do is to say a blessing called Havdalah over wine, spices and candles. The spices are a reminder of the sweetness of Shabbat. We then wish each other a good week and have another nice meal. This is usually a stew that has been cooking all night.

After dinner Shabbat is over, so I can watch television or use the computer, but sometimes I don't want to because it's nice to have the feeling of Shabbat for a bit longer.