
The Demons in the Basement



Introduction

This story comes from the book called Kav HaYashar by Rabbi Tzvi Hirsch Kaidanover of Frankfurt in a chapter in which he explains the dangers of cavorting with demons. First published in 1705, Kav HaYashar is a popular volume of Jewish ethics. Its name literally means “The Straight Line.” The following story describes a serious problem and its bittersweet conclusion, with a bit of humor sprinkled throughout.

[**Watch video**] <https://youtu.be/XNQvePi7Hw4>

Activity

Materials needed:

Microphone

Two sides to Every Tale - Assign small groups of 4-6 people a well-known fairy tale. The group should be divided in half and each half should be assigned to a specific character. The group should brainstorm for about 10 minutes on how they would best present the case of their character in defense of their actions.

For example, assign a group the story of Little Red Riding Hood. One side must defend the action of Red Riding Hood and the other must defend the actions of the wolf.

Have each side prepare a short debate and present it before the group. The group can then decide which side of the debate won their case.

Other story options include:

1. Hansel and Gretel- the Children v. the Witch
2. Goldilocks and the Three Bears – Goldilocks v. the Bears
3. If you have a local legend or famous story, feel free to add your own ideas!

Conclusion

There are two sides to every story. Before coming to a conclusion or making a decision, it is important to hear both sides of the story. The villain in a story may not be as bad as you once believed! When you give the other side a chance to share their perspective, you may be surprised to find that there is more to the story than you may have originally understood.