



May the Fourth Be With You

A short time ago in a galaxy very near to everyone on Planet Earth, the world was in a unified state. All agreed that the fourth day of May should be observed as Star Wars Day. People from all walks of life would dress up like Wookiees; participate in Star Wars-themed activities; and watch episodes four, five, and six. The activities here will help your class to participate in the festivities. **MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!**

Half-Moon Cookies

Much in the way that Jewish tradition speaks of a *yetzer tov* (good inclination) and *yetzer ra* (evil inclination), the Star Wars universe debates the merits of the light side and the dark side of the Force. Half-moon cookies offer a metaphor for that duality. While the glazed-icing version known as black-and-white cookies have become more prevalent, this cake-based cookie with fluffy frosting presents a delicious space-based treat. You can bake these cookies with your class (<http://www.saveur.com/article/Recipes/Halfmoon-Cookies>) or try to find them in your local market. While students enjoy their cookies, they can debate the relative merits of the light side vs. the dark side. If students are frosting their own, ask them how much light or dark frosting they will put on their own cookies?

Darth Vader *Midaber Ivrit*?

Well, no; but several people have pointed out that Darth Vader's outfit has Hebrew writing on it (<http://scifi.stackexchange.com/questions/22676/what-is-written-on-darth-vaders-chest-control-panel>). While people are not in agreement about what the Hebrew means, or whether it means anything at all, take the opportunity to explore *gematria*, where each Hebrew letter has a numerical value. Ask students to figure out the numerical value of their own names and those of their favorite Star Wars characters.

Light Saber Fights

No, not really. But think about what it is that you and your students would like to eradicate from your lives; be it *chametz* (leavened food) around Passover, the metaphorical Amalek, et al. Make a piñata (<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Pi%C3%B1ata>) in the form of what you want to eradicate. Fill your piñata with Israeli (nut-free) chocolate and candy. Students recall Luke Skywalker's training by trying to eradicate the piñata with a "light saber" while blindfolded.

"I am your father."

Darth Vader's revelation to Luke Skywalker at the end of *The Empire Strikes Back* is considered by many to be one of the great moments in cinematic history. While very few people would want to claim Lord Vader as a parent, family lineages are particularly important in the *Tanakh* (Bible). Have students create a family tree. Depending on how familiar they are familiar with the characters from the Star Wars movies, students can even associate different characters with their different family members.

Be the Resistance

One of the overriding themes of the Star Wars movies is the few defeating the many, the weak overcoming the mighty. This is also the theme of many Jewish holidays, most notably Hanukkah. Study the *Al Hanisim* prayer with your class and brainstorm ways that students can be upstanders in the face of mighty opposition.