

Alliance
Theatre

BERNHARDT
THEATRE
FOR THE
VERY
young

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Activity Guide

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

About the play:

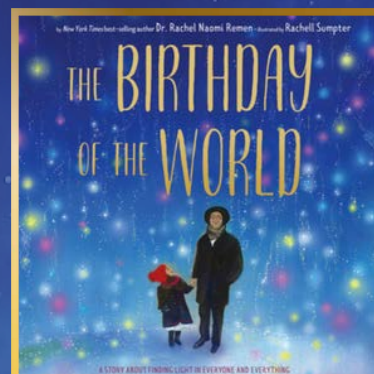


Created by
Jonathan Shmidt Chapman



Inspired by the book
The Birthday of the World
by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen

How can you repair the world, finding one spark at a time? Gather around and lean forward as we share a gift with you – a story about how the world was born and how it needs your help to be filled with light again. Based on the beautiful children's book by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen and drawing from Jewish folklore, this immersive performance brings a timeless and timely story to life through gentle storytelling, visual wonder, and sensory play.



A note from the Director:

"The beautiful message of Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen's story is more urgent and resonant than ever: When we use our hearts to find the spark of light in each and every person, only then can we collectively repair our broken world. This ancient Jewish idea of Tikkun Olam is both universal and deeply resonant today. This interactive piece of theater, designed for our youngest audiences, will bring this timeless story to life through sensory play, wonder, and light."

– Jonathan Shmidt Chapman, Director

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Who's Who?



Reuben Haller as
GRANDFATHER



Jo-Jo Steine as
RACHEL



Myah Harper as
STAGE MANAGER



Leah Thomas as
NESHUMALEH



Samuel Shankman
COMPOSER



April Andrew Carswell
COSTUME DESIGNER



Lynn Jeffries
SCENIC AND PUPPET
DESIGNER

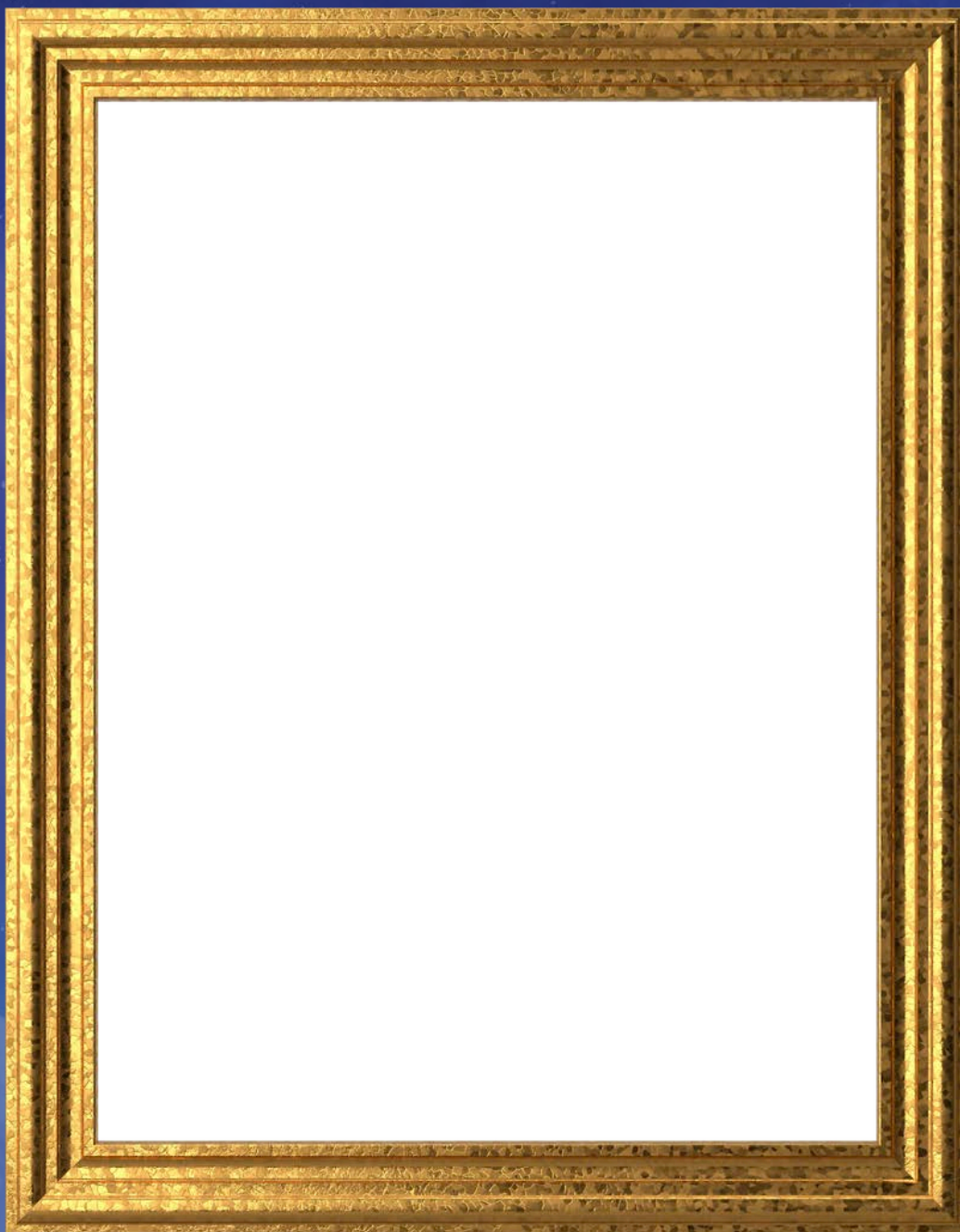
THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Draw your headshot



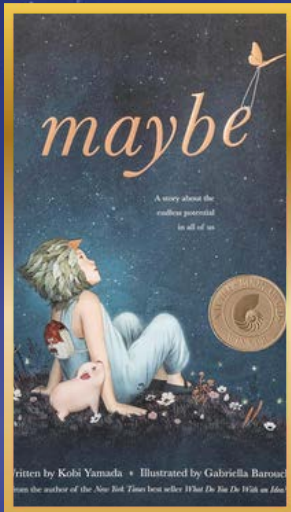
THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

*Draw a picture of someone who
makes your light shine bright*

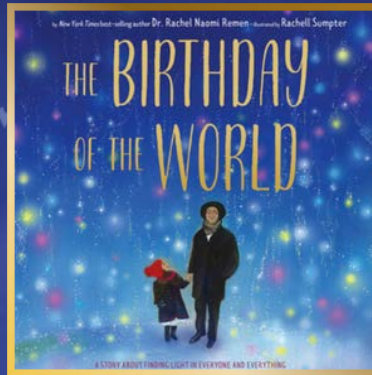


THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

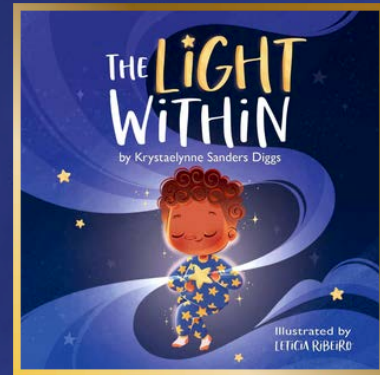
Recommended Reading for Families



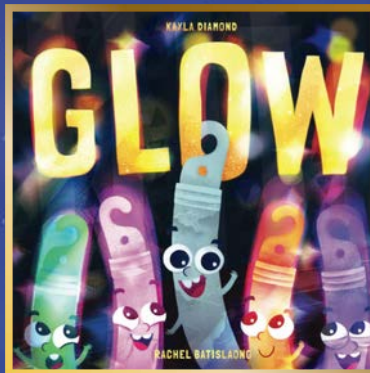
Maybe
by Kobi Yamada



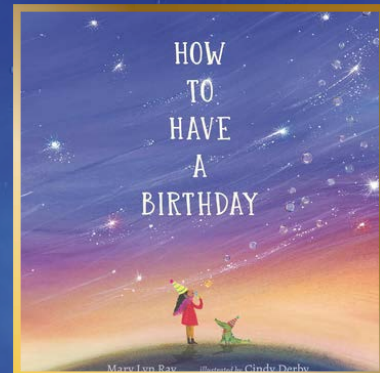
The Birthday of the World
by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen



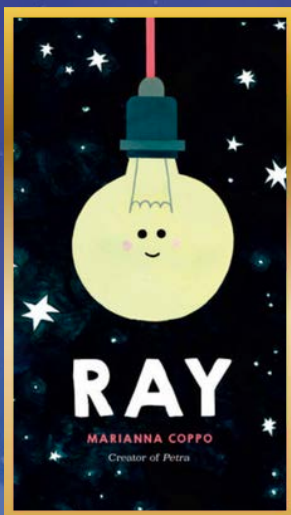
The Light Within
by Krystaelynn Sanders



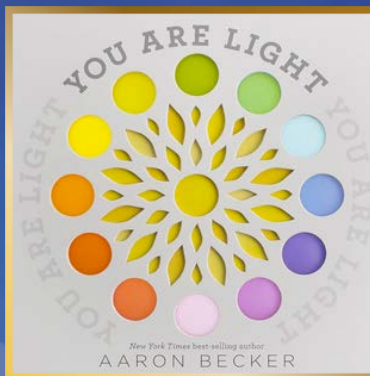
GLOW
by Kayla Diamond



How to Have a Birthday
by Mary Lyn Ray

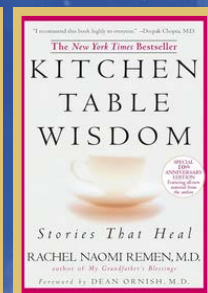
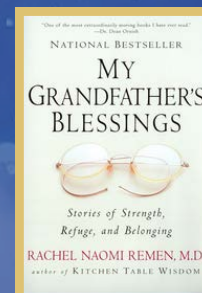


Ray
by Marianna Coppo



You Are Light
by Aaron Becker

... and grownups



THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Create Your World

Materials:

- Paper plate
- Blue and green tissue paper (ripped or pre-cut pieces)
- Glue Stick or Liquid Glue
- Extras: photos, stickers, glitter



1. Glue green and blue tissue paper on the plate to represent land and water.
2. Add pictures of people, animals, or other important things in your world.
3. Label the plate: "This is [NAME]'s world!"
4. Talk about how everyone has a special place in the world.

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

"Happy Birthday World!" Card



1. Fold a piece of paper half to make the card.
2. On the front, write a message like:
"Happy Birthday, World!"
3. Inside, draw pictures of things you love (ex: flowers, animals, ice cream)
4. Ask: "What makes the world happy?"
"What makes you happy?"



THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Birthday Wish for the World



1. Cut out star shapes (or use stickers).
2. Ask: "If you could make a wish for the world, what would it be?"
3. Draw or write the answer on the star.
4. Tape your stars to a wall or hang from the ceiling to make a "sky of wishes."



THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Swim like a Jellyfish

Materials:

- Paper bowl
- Streamers/Yarn
- String
- Scissors
- Markers/Crayons
- Tape



1. Flip the bowl upside down to create the jellyfish body.
2. Tape streamers or yarn around the edge of the bowl to create the flowing tentacles.
3. Decorate the top of your jellyfish
4. Tape a string to the top of your jellyfish to make it swim through the air!



THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Float like a Cloud

Materials:

- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Glue
- Cotton Balls



1. Cut a paper plate into the shape of your favorite cloud.
2. Spread glue evenly across the plate.
3. Cover it with cotton balls to make it fluffy.
4. Move your cloud gently through the air. Make “whoosh” sounds and blow it around in different directions.
5. Ask, “What does your cloud feel like today? Sleepy, windy, rainy?”



THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Fly like a Butterfly

Materials:

- Coffee filter
- Markers
- Spray bottle
- Water
- Chenille stem



1. Decorate a coffee filter with markers.
2. Spray the coffee filter with water, and watch the colors blend.
3. Once dry, pinch the center to form the wings.
4. Add an antenna by tying a chenille stem around the center leaving two long pieces sticking up.
5. Take flight!



THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

DIY Shadow Theatre



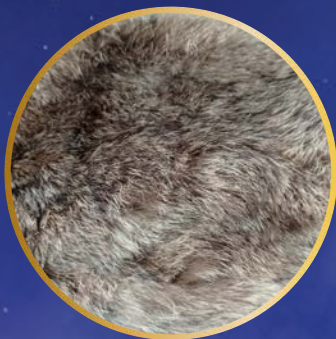
1. Hang or drape a light-colored sheet, or simply find a blank wall.
2. Turn off as many lights as you are comfortable. Point a bright light, like a phone flashlight or reading lamp, toward the blank wall/sheet.
3. Using your hand or cut paper, block the light from hitting the wall/sheet. This casts a shadow!
4. Experiment with getting closer and farther from the light. Does your shadow grow? Does the shadow shrink? Is it clear, or kind of wobbly?



THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Walk the Earth Scavenger Hunt

Take a walk and try to find...



Soft



Green



Blue



Sound



Round



Movement

Can you find the spark of light in each of these things?

Ask Curious Questions:

Why do you think flowers have so many colors?

Why do you think birds sing in the morning?

Why do you think clouds look different everyday?

If the wind had a voice or a song, what would it sound like?

How can we be gentle and kind to nature?

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

Family Storytelling

Sharing stories is the best way to stay connected, even when we are apart! Celebrate your family story by collecting and retelling stories through the following exercise.



1. Call or video chat the oldest member of your family. This could be your grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, uncle, who knows! Ask them the following questions:
 - When you were my age, what was your favorite story?
 - Tell me about your favorite day from your childhood. Who was there? What did you do? What made it special?
2. Record this conversation by either voice recording, taking notes, drawing a picture, or something even more creative and brilliant.
3. Imagine your family member telling this story. What would they be wearing? Go to your closet and pick out an outfit they might wear and try it on.
4. Next, try retelling their story as if you were pretending to be them. Try on a voice to sound more like them. Would they be standing or sitting for their story? Do they speak slowly or really fast?
5. It's time to share! Ask the family in your home to gather around for a story, and maybe they can film it so you have a copy forever. Starting with the words "I remember like it was yesterday...", pretend you are that family member retelling their story.