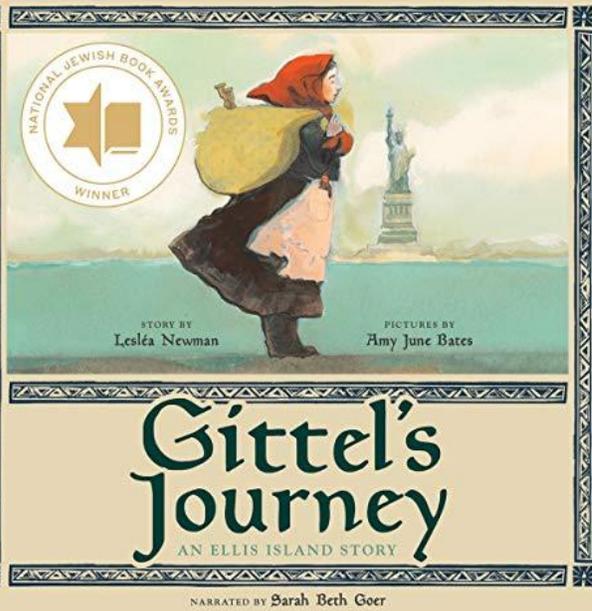


A Friend Like Basha



In the book *Gittel's Journey* by Lesléa Newman, Gittel brings a rag doll with her on her journey. Rag dolls are one of the oldest types of toys in existence, dating back to the Roman Empire or before. They are traditionally home-made using fabric scraps. You can make a simple rag doll without even having to sew!

Supplies:

- Scissors
- Cotton balls
- 3 contrasting pieces of muslin or cotton (you can even use pillowcases!) - one for the face and arms (we'll call that Fabric A), one for the dress (Fabric B), and one for the kerchief (Fabric C).
- 1 piece of white fabric for the apron

- 1** Cut the fabric you'll use for the body. You'll need: 1 long wide strip of Fabric A for the face and body, about 18" x 4" and 3 long skinny strips of Fabric A for arms, about 16" x 1/2".



Knot the three skinny strips of Fabric A together, tape them to a table, braid them all the way down, then tie a knot to secure the braid.

- 3** Pinch at the neck and tie the braid around it to form the arms, keeping the tie in back.



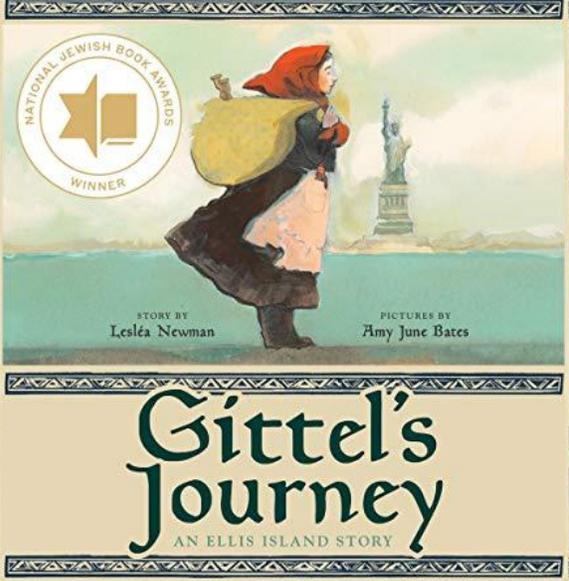
- 2** Place two cotton balls at the center fold of the big piece of Fabric A.



- 4** Cut the fabric for the dress: 1 rectangle of Fabric B about 14" x 4", shown here in blue.



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Fold the rectangle in half so the top and bottom are lined up, then in half again so that the sides meet, and cut a little hole out of the corner. Don't make it too big! You can always make it bigger if it's too small, but you don't want the dress to slip off the shoulders.



5 Pull the dress down over the doll's head.



4

6 Place a couple of cotton balls inside the body, just below the tie.



7 Cut an apron out of white fabric by making a rectangle that measures roughly 5" x 3" and 1/2" wide ties that extend 8" out on either side. Turn the doll over and tie the apron in the back, making a bow.



8 Measure and cut a 5" x 5" square of Fabric C for the kerchief and fold two corners together to make a triangle. Cut another short, skinny strip of the same fabric, just 1/2" by 5" or so, to tie it on.



9 Use a black marker to draw two dots for the eyes and a red marker for the mouth. Tada!



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