



# JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY

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## RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

### FIRST GRADERS STUDY FAIRY TALES

The first graders have become fairy tale experts over the past few weeks. We read and compared many different versions of Three Billy Goats Gruff, Rumpelstiltskin, and Little Red Riding Hood. The students each created mini books about the different fairy tales. As a class, we created a comprehensive chart, which compared all three fairy tales we studied. It was interesting to see that each story had special words, good characters vs. evil ones, and the number three is significant in each one. We discussed these different story elements, and referred to these elements as the ingredients that go into making a good story. The students are now working on creating a large fairy tale mandala. A mandala is a circular art form that represents cycles and balance or a round picture with different shapes and pictures organized in a patterned manner. We discussed the idea that fairy tales are passed down through generations and while the stories may vary slightly, the main story elements remain the same. As the mandalas are beginning to take shape, it is evident that the students have developed a deep understanding of story elements. It is our hope, too, that we have helped to foster a love of reading, and of fairy tales in particular!

