



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Benchmark

Grade 5

Student Materials

The Project Next Door

In the evening, Jasper heard the sound of a hammer knocking in nails, and the skid of an electric drill. He looked out his window, but he could not see where the sounds were coming from. They continued into the night, after he went to bed.

In the morning, when Jasper left his house to walk to school with his dad, he saw a kind of shed, that hadn't been there the day before, on the side of his neighbor's house. The walls were made of plywood and two-by-fours. There were window holes cut into the walls. Mr. Wiseman, their neighbor, was standing on a ladder, and making a roof out of a blue plastic tarp and a length of willow fencing over the top of the shed. He nodded at Jasper and his dad as they passed by.

As they walked along, Jasper and his dad saw a second shed, and then a third and a fourth. By the time they had arrived at school, they had seen ten.

"What are those?" Jasper asked his dad.

Jasper's dad explained that they were sukkah, special huts built by Jewish families to celebrate the harvest festival called Sukkot. During the festival, the families build and decorate their sukkah, and then invite their friends and relatives to visit them and share meals inside.

In the afternoon, on his way home from school, Jasper noticed more sukkah. He saw Jewish fathers and their older children working together to build with wood and nails. He saw Jewish mothers and their babies and small children watching the walls go up. When he went to bed that night, he heard the construction sounds, and told himself, "It's the sound of the sukkah."