

The Schmooze **Stories with a Yiddish Twist**

A YIDDISHER “TATEH” TACKLES DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

by
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According to a Newsweek story, “The Creativity Crisis,” preschool kids ask their parents an average of 100 questions a day. By middle school, they’ve basically stopped asking questions.

There’s the story of the little girl who asked her mother, “How did the human race appear?” The mother answered, “God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made.” Two days later, the girl asked her father the same question. He answered, “Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved.” The confused girl returned to her mother and said, “Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys? The mother smiled and answered, “Well, dear, it is very simple: I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his.”

Shown below are some fatherly Q/A discussions:

Q. Dad, how come the tooth fairy only left me a dollar? My friends all got \$2.00 or more?

A. “Ver vaist?” (Who knows?) Maybe your teeth had excessive tartar buildup.”

Q. “Dad, can you buy me a beeper?”

A. “”Far vos?” (Why?) I shout loud enough!”

Q. "How old are you, dad?"

A. "Oh, somewhere in the middle FLIRTIES."

Q. "While at the mall, can I sit on Santa's lap?"

A. "Yo." (Yes), as long as you only ask for world peace."

Q. "Why don't you get an automated mail delivery cart for your home/office?"

A. "And what will we call it? ROBOT REDFORD or HUMPHREY ROBOT!"

Q. "Dad, I'm feeling down in the dumps today. What should I do?"

A. "Chop a few onions; crying will make you feel 'beser' (better)."

Q. "Dad, what did the police officer say to you when you asked him what to do with the speeding ticket?"

A. "He said, 'Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle.'"

Q. "Dad, Michael Bloomberg wears Paul Stuart suits. Where do you shop for your wardrobe?"

A. "C. R. Jew.com, the Internet's catalog for Hasidic Jews."
(Suggested by Steven Brykman)

Q. "Dad, what did you and mom do at the Money Management lecture series?"

A. "First, we bowed our head in memory of our dear departed 8% C.D.'s. Then we called 'cashquik@gmail.com.'"

Q. "Dad, a group of seniors at Syosset High School are planning to spend Spring Break in Florida, but I'm experiencing a negative cash flow."

A. "Why not move in with Jerry Seinfeld's parents at Del Boca Vista."

Q. "Dad, what's a Second-Story Man?"

A. "That's what your mother calls me. If she doesn't believe my first story, I always have a second one."

Q. "Dad, what's KKK?"

A. "Kosher Krispy Kreme doughnuts."

Q. "Dad, can we buy 'fitness water,' those sports drinks with electrolyte, or FDNY Fire Zone Spring Water?"

A. "Turn on the faucet, dahling. I'll give you a 'Glezel Tai' (glass of tea)."

Q. "Dad, what's your favorite music?"

A. "It's called PEACE AND QUIET."

Q. "Dad, did you know that our school now has 15 new computers?"

A. "Good. By the way, which is better, hardware or software?"

Q. "Daddy, what does 'Gay Avec' mean?"

A. "It's the name of a travel agency in Miami Beach."

Q. "How do you like the downtown avant-electric jazz-hip-hop hybrid group, Medeski, Martin & Woods?"

A. "I thought it was the name of a law firm."

Q. "What's a grand'mere?"

A. "A bubba who has wine and cheese by the Seine instead of tea and cake on the stoop." (Ruth & Bob Grossman)

Q. "What's an egg cream?"

A. "Well, first of all, it contains no eggs and no cream....."

Q. "Daddy, what's a 'shtarker'?"

A. "Well, Lenny Bruce said that a 'shtarker' is a guy who wears a wool

suit without underwear.”

Q. “Dad, what’s the meaning of the Yiddish words ‘mitten di rinnen’?”

A. “Well, suppose we’ve got TDF tickets to “Fiddler on the Roof. It’s the beginning of Act II and you whisper that you gotta go....”

Q. “Dad, what’s unique about the state of Connecticut?”

A. “The late Joan Rivers said Connecticut should be called ‘The Would You Like Butter on Your Pastrami Sandwich” State.”

Q. “Daddy, is it true that everyone dies?”

A. “Except maybe 91-year-old Betty White, the Goddess of the small screen. She’s still ‘Hot in Cleveland.’”

MARJORIE WOLFE’S favorite true story about children who ask questions comes from The New York Times, Metropolitan Diary, Sept 25, 1996:

Dear Diary:

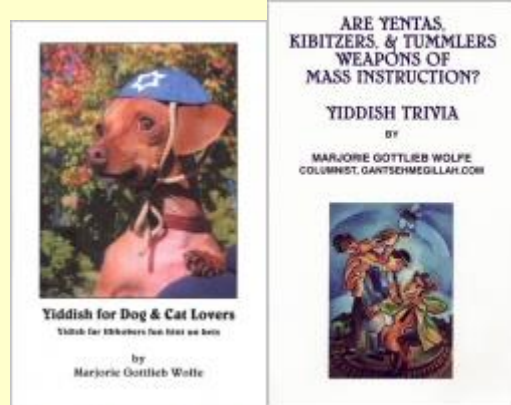
At his Torah-Bible study class at the Jewish Center of the Hamptons, Rabbi Marc Disick told the group about the time his 6-year-old daughter, Gabriele, asked about Robin Hood. The Rabbi explained that Robin Hood took from the rich and gave to the poor. Gabrielle thought a moment and asked her father, Who then was going to take care of the rich, who were now poor? A Talmudic observation, the proud father observed.

MAX EISE

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**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of
two books:**



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction?
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