“A Wicked Passover” LESSON PLAN
by Alexandra Fleksher

LESSON AT A GLANCE
Students will explore the concept of the wicked person as depicted in the Haggadah as well as in popular movies. Students will analyze Rabbi Zvi Elimelech Spira’s novel interpretation of the difference between the words rasha (wicked person) and ra (evil) and gain insight into the role of the wicked child who is ever present at the Pesach Seder.

OBJECTIVES
• Students will analyze the Four Children text of the Haggadah and identify what makes the wicked child different from the others.
• Students will recognize the way popular movies depict a wicked person.
• Students will analyze how these depictions fit in with Rabbi Zvi Elimelech Spira’s interpretation of a true evil person.

ACTIVITY
1. Distribute the worksheet (below) about the Four Children. Students should work in pairs to answer the worksheet questions. Allow students to summarize their responses in a brief teacher-led discussion.

2. Show the video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=20xMPuc3IrM. Ask students to independently answer the following question in writing.
What movie characters were used to represent a rasha (wicked person)? Why?

3. Draw a chart on the board comparing the words rasha (wicked person) and ra (evil). The teacher should fill in the chart based on what the class has learned about these two words from the video. (See the sample chart below.) Once the chart is completed, conclude the lesson by discussing with the class why the “bad guy” movie characters were chosen to depict a wicked person, but how the wicked child of the Pesach Haggadah is completely different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rasha</th>
<th>Ra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wicked person</td>
<td>Means “evil”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the letter “shin”</td>
<td>Does not have the letter “shin”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the sustaining Jewish spark</td>
<td>Does not have the Jewish spark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs to know he belongs to the Jewish people</td>
<td>Cannot be helped/ a lost cause</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOLLOW-UP AND ENRICHMENT

© Behrman House, Inc./Babaganewz/MediaMidrash
1. What is the difference between the question of the wise child and the wicked child?

2. What is the difference between the question of the wise child and the simple child?

3. According to the Haggadah, what is wrong with the wicked child’s question?

4. Does our response to the wicked child answer the child’s question? Explain your answer.