

## *Introduction*

Agent Emes represents a new approach in Jewish children's entertainment, one that combines popular appeal within the context of a modern Jewish lifestyle. Yet Agent Emes provides more than an enjoyable video experience. It can serve as a springboard for an active learning experience as well.

The following concepts and terminology are presented during the course of the video. Teachers can either discuss them before the class screens the video or they can let the class watch Agent Emes and guide the questions and discussion around it.

Either way, students will remember and relate to the Jewish lessons and information found in Agent Emes, every time they watch it. This reinforces the learning experience, while making it satisfying and enjoyable as well.

## *Key Concepts In Agent Emes*

### **Mitzvot**

A mitzvah is a divine precept that connects man to his Creator. According to our sages, the Torah contains 613 Mitzvot, 248 positive commandments (“dos”) and 365 negative commandments (“Don’t dos”). The sages state that the 248 positive commandments correspond to the number of parts in the human body. The 365 negative commandments correspond to the number of the days in the solar year. The Mitzvot are also divided into a different set of categories; commandments between Man and his/her fellow, and the commandments that dictate behavior between Man and G-d.

### **The Fish Head**

Symbolism plays a large role in Judaism, and nowhere is this more evident than on Rosh Hashona. Many have the custom of serving a variety of foods, which hint at – either through their makeup, or their Jewish name – different blessings we hope for during the upcoming year. For instance we dip the apple in honey at the beginning of the meal so that we will have a “good and sweet year.” Eating pomegranates, whose many seeds represent the 613 Mitzvot that the Torah commands us to follow, is another one.

There is a nearly universal custom to place the head of an animal, usually either a goat or a fish, on the table. Rosh Hashona literally means “head” of the year. Thus, we place a head on our table. In this episode of Agent Emes, Shimmy encounters some pre-cut fish heads in the kosher market, one of which speaks to him, thus launching the show's adventure.

### **Eruv** (*Scene with Dr. Lo Tov on the ladder*)

The word Eruv means “combine” or “blend.”

In general, Jewish law distinguishes between a private domain – like a house – and a

