

Editor's Note

A dreidel is a four-sided spinning top, played with during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. Each side of the dreidel shows a letter of the Hebrew alphabet—NUN, GIMEL, HEI, and SHIN. Together, they form an acronym for the phrase, “a great miracle happened there,” referring to the ancient miracle that happened in the land of Israel.

Each player begins with an equal number of game pieces (usually 10-15). The game pieces may be any small objects, such as pennies, raisins, nuts, pretzel sticks, or small candies (like M&Ms). Players sit in a circle on the floor with the dreidel in the center. At the beginning of every round, each player puts one game piece into the center. This becomes the “pot.” During their turn, each player spins the dreidel once. Depending on which side is facing up when the dreidel stops spinning, the player gives or takes pieces from the pot.

- If NUN is facing up, the player does nothing.
- If GIMEL is facing up, the player gets everything in the pot.
- If HEI is facing up, the player gets half of the pot.
- If SHIN is facing up, the player adds one game piece to the pot.

Any time the pot is empty or has only one piece remaining, every player adds one piece to the pot. The game lasts until one person has won everything from the pot.

Pronunciation Guide

Nun = *nuhn**

Gimel = *gih-məl*

Hei = *hay*

Shin = *shihn*

* like the vowel sound in “look”

NUN, GIMEL, HEI, SHIN

(A Dreidel Song)

for 2-part voices and piano
with optional SoundTrax CD*

Words by
LINDA MARCUS

Music by
VICKI TUCKER COURTNEY

With excitement (♩ = ca. 108)

PIANO

5

PART I

mf

Spin the drei - del, watch it dance. Ev - 'ry - one come

PART II

mf

Spin the drei - del, watch it dance. Ev - 'ry - one come

mf

8

take a chance. It's my turn to spin the top.

take a chance. It's my turn to spin the top.

* SoundTrax CD available (39672).

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11 13 *f*

Once it starts, where will it stop? Nun, gim - el,

Once it starts, where will it stop? Nun, gim - el,

14

hei, shin! Watch the drei - del spin, spin, spin.

hei, shin! Watch the drei - del spin, spin, spin.

17

Nun, gim - el, hei, shin! Ev - 'ry - one join

Nun, gim - el, hei, shin! Ev - 'ry - one join

20

in. Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

in. Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

23

Spin the drei - del, you might win. Nun, gim - el,

Spin the drei - del, you might win. Nun, gim - el,

26

hei, shin! Let the fun be - gin!

hei, shin! Let the fun be - gin!

Musical notation for measures 29-32, including vocal staves and piano accompaniment.

33

mf

Spin the drei - del, watch it go. Will I win or

mf

Spin the drei - del, watch it go. Will I win or

mf

36

will I owe? Land on gim - el, land on hei!

will I owe? Land on gim - el, land on hei!

39

41

f

If it's shin, I'll have to pay. Nun, gim - el,

If it's shin, I'll have to pay. Nun, gim - el,

42

hei, shin! Watch the drei - del spin, spin, spin.

hei, shin! Watch the drei - del spin, spin, spin.

45

Nun, gim - el, hei, shin! Ev - 'ry - one join

Nun, gim - el, hei, shin! Ev - 'ry - one join

in. Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

in. Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

Spin the drei - del, you might win. Nun, gim - el,

Spin the drei - del, you might win. Nun, gim - el,

hei, shin! Let the fun be - gin. *mf* It's

hei, shin! Let the fun be - gin.

57

Ha - nuk - kah _____ and time for our fav - 'rite

60

game. *mf* Spin the drei - del is its
Lai, lai, lai, lai.

63

cresc. name. *molto rit.* Lai, lai, lai.
cresc. Lai, lai, lai. Lai, lai, lai.

67 **Broadly** (♩ = ca. 80)

f

Nun, gim - el, hei, shin! Watch the drei - del

f

Nun, gim - el, hei, shin! Watch the drei - del

Broadly (♩ = ca. 80)

f

70

accel. poco a poco

spin, spin, spin. Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

spin, spin, spin. Nun, gim el, hei, shin!

accel. poco a poco

73

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 108)

Ev - 'ry - one join in. Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

Ev - 'ry - one join in. Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 108)

77

Spin the drei - del, you might win. Nun, gim - el, el,

Spin the drei - del, you might win. Nun, gim - el, el,

80

hei, shin! Let the fun be - gin.

hei, shin! Let the fun be - gin.

83

ff Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!

ff Nun, gim - el, hei, shin!