

# Spring Hope

By Ivy Malach

Second Grade (Mrs. Ebbert's Class)

Rose's family has not been the same since Rose's father died. Rose always lived with her mother, father, grandmother, and little sister, Lily. Rose's parents always worked as a team. Her dad was the cook in the family, and her mother was the one who did all of the other household things. She kept the family running smoothly. Her dad was not only the chef, but he was the fun in the family as well. He took them all to the World's Fair, where Rose had her first Ferris Wheel ride. He played Tickle Monster and let them make messes without scolding them. Rose's grandmother, her father's mother, was the calm and wise one of the family. Rose loved her family and had a happy life.

Rose's father drove to the market one evening to get the onion he needed for that evening's meal. What should have taken no more than twenty minutes turned into over an hour. The family was beginning to worry when two police officers knocked on the door. Rose's grandmother immediately began to wail before the officers could tell them about the terrible car accident that killed Rose's father. Everything in Rose's family changed in that moment.

Rose's grandmother, while still wise, was so sad that she never left her bedroom or even looked out the window. Rose's mother had to cook all the meals, and everyone finally realized why their dad was the chef, Rose's mother was terrible at cooking. Rose and Lily lost the fun in their lives. They each clung to a stuffed fox their father won for them both at the World's Fair. They cried themselves to sleep each night and woke up sad each morning.

After a month of bad meals, Rose and Lily decided to take things into their own hands. They bought a cookbook with all the money they had saved and started to make some of their favorite meals that their dad had once made. One evening, Rose and Lily decided to make one of their father's specialties... Lamb Chops. The smell spread throughout the home, coaxing the grandmother out of her bedroom. It was the first time they all sat at the dinner table since their father passed away.

Grandmother started eating the lamb chops and wolfed it down in no time. She ate like a bear coming out of hibernation. She hadn't eaten so much since

Rose's father passed away. Rose's grandmother said, "Girls, thank you so much for this wonderful meal. I haven't eaten like this in weeks. How did you learn to cook like this?" Rose replied, "Well, we got a cookbook, found all Dad's favorites, and followed the recipes." Then, they all began to share their favorite meals and memories with their father. Pretty soon, everyone at the table was smiling and laughing. Lily said, "I read a book once that said you should say the best thing that happened in your day when you are sitting with your family at the table. How about each night we say a good memory about Dad? Remembering happy stories of Dad makes us happy." Rose's mother said, "That is an excellent idea, Lily. Let's do it." From that evening on, Rose and her family sat down at the dinner table each night and started the meal by telling a happy memory of their dad.

One morning, Rose's Grandmother looked out the window and smiled. She called Rose and Lily over to the window. There was a mother rabbit with all her baby kits. They were nibbling the spring flowers and patches of clover. Rose looked at the kits, she looked at all of the flowers, she looked at the apple blossoms on the trees. Rose said, "Wow. Everything is so beautiful." Her grandmother replied, "Spring is here. There is new life everywhere." And at that moment, Rose's mother walked into the room with a new pet kitten. Lily and Rose squealed with delight. Lily immediately began coming up with a list of names. Rose's mother said, "How about you Rose? Do you have any names for this kitten?" "Hope," said Rose quietly. "Spring has brought hope back into our family just like this kitten. Everyone in Rose's family agreed.

**The End**