And even if we were all sages, all discerning, all elders, all knowledgeable about the Torah, it would be a commandment upon us to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. And anyone who grows (marbeh) the telling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt, behold, they are praiseworthy.

One way we can “grow” our telling of the Exodus story is to pay close attention to a Seder “text”—whether it is actual text from the Haggadah, a family custom, or a symbolic item on the table. In doing so, we notice the text’s details with greater clarity and hear the text’s voice more deeply.

Once we have noticed our text in brand new ways, we can also grow our telling through wondering and raising questions about what we’ve discovered. When we do this with other people at the table and encounter their wonderings, we also experience the value of engaging with another person to open up a text’s possibilities. This whole process helps us develop new appreciation for the Exodus story and for the people with whom we are sharing it.

This is a turn-and-talk guide that can help you and the people at the Seder with you—both adults and children—do exactly this. The leader in this guide might be someone leading the entire Seder, or just leading a particular section. For example, you might use this activity to grow discussions of:

» Family customs, such as melodies, unique Seder plate customs, or roles for children
» The three matzot
» The Seder plate or any one of the items on it
» The teaching of R. Elazar b. Azaryah
» “In every generation a person is obligated to see themselves as though they themselves went out of Egypt”
» Psalm 114: “When Israel went out from Egypt...”
» Elijah’s cup
» External texts that the leader or guests have brought to the Seder, including essays in this reader
Noticing and Wondering

1. **Introduce a text**: Before reading a section of the Haggadah text, talking about a Seder item, or enacting a custom, the leader should tell the participants what they are about to do, and invite them to notice any details that stand out to them.

2. **Action**: Then read the section, present the item, or enact the custom. While this is happening, people may notice particular words in a text, the features of an item on the Seder table, or the choreography of a custom.

3. **Turn and Talk**: Next, the leader should prompt people to turn to the person next to them and follow these conversation steps. If you like, you can hand out copies of the card at the bottom of this guide, with a shorthand version of the “Noticing and Wondering” steps, to help participants get the most out of their discussions.
   - *I notice*... Choose one detail about this text that really stands out for you, and share it with the person sitting next to you. For example, "I noticed that we break the middle matzah, hide a piece of it away, and keep a piece with the other two matzot."
   - *I wonder*... Wonder out loud about any questions it raises for you. For example, "I wonder why we do that. On Shabbat, we have two hallot, so why do we have two and a half matzot on Pesah?"
   - *What do you think?* Invite the person next to you to share their thoughts in response to your noticing and wondering. For example, "Maybe because part of the Pesah story is about us being slaves, so we have a broken piece to remind us..."
   - *I think*... Share some thoughts of your own in response to your own question and what the person next to you shared. For example, "Yeah, that also makes me think about how we take grape juice from our cups when we recite the plagues. Since there are sad things about this story, they get represented by a piece of broken matzah..."
   - *Switch roles (and repeat the first 4 steps)!*
   - *I appreciate*... Once each partner has had a turn to notice, wonder, and respond, share something each of you appreciated about the other during your exchange.

4. **Share insights**: The leader can then bring everyone back together and offer the opportunity for people to share insights that emerged from their conversations.

You can use these steps to grow conversations at your Seder just once, or repeat them at different points, as often as feels appropriate for your participants.

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**“GROWING” YOUR SEDER TURN & TALK PROMPTS**

- *I notice*... Share one detail that stands out to you.
- *I wonder*... Share a question that it raises.
- *What do you think?*... Ask the person next to you for their thoughts.
- *I think*... Share your own thoughts.
- *SWITCH!*
- *I appreciate*... Share something you appreciated about talking with the person next to you.