In this retelling of a folktale, lazy Shlemazel is tricked into believing that fame and fortune await him -- if only he uses a very special spoon in the correct way. What Do You Think?

But when Moshke convinces him that he has the amazing, remarkable spoon of Pohost, Shlemazel learns the pleasure of a good day's work, finds a wife, performs a mitzvah, and discovers that he doesn't need luck to be happy. In an author's note, Stampler explains that as with her previous picture book, Something for Nothing, this story comes form her grandmother, a native of Pohost. The glossary also explains Yiddish terms like tsimmes, mensch, poretz and zlotys. Lazy Shlemazel is convinced he has no luck. But Moshke the tinker promises him that his luck will change if he sets to work using the "amazing, remarkable spoon of Pohost."

Shlemazel gets busy - tilling the poretz's field, helping the miller, and baking cakes with pretty Chaya Massel. Although "luck" remains elusive, what Shlemazel does find is even better. Lively Chagall-like illustrations capture the spirit of this traditional Jewish tale, a funny and thought-provoking look at how we make our own luck. Author's note, glossary. Genre: Children's Fiction. Use