



Holiday Resources

in the Pinsof Children's Reading Room

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot & Simchat Torah

Rosh Hashanah:

***Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride* by Deborah Bodin Cohen (E240.2)**

Observing Rosh Hashanah, Engineer Ari apologizes for his boastful ways as he drives the very first train from Jaffa to Jerusalem in 1892.

***How the Rosh Hashanah Challah Became Round* by Sylvia B. Epstein (E240.2)**

Yossi's terrible tumble turns out to be a terrific triumph . . . and a possible explanation for why we eat round challah on Rosh Hashanah!

***The Secret Shofar of Barcelona* by Jacqueline Dembar Greene (J240.2)**

In the late 1500s, while the conductor of the Royal Orchestra of Barcelona prepares for a concert to celebrate Spain's colonies in the New World, his son secretly practices playing the Shofar to help Jews, who must hide their faith from the Inquisition, to celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

***Celebrate Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur* by Deborah Heiligman (E240.2)**

Describes how the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are celebrated around the world.

***Today Is the Birthday of the World* by Linda Heller (E240.2)**

On the birthday of the world, God asks all of the creatures whether each has been the best giraffe, or bee, or child they could be, helping to make the world a better place.

***What a Way to Start the New Year!* by Jacqueline Jules (E240.2)**

Having moved just before Rosh Hashanah, Harry and Dina fear the new year will be nothing but unpacking and leftover pizza until their parents take them to synagogue where they meet the Levine family.

***Big Sam: A Rosh Hashanah Tall Tale* by Eric A. Kimmel (E240.2)**

Digging the Grand Canyon to use as a mixing bowl, a giant bakes an enormous challah for Rosh Hashanah and cleans up the environment afterwards. See also *Gabriel's Horn*.

***Gershon's Monster: A Story for the Jewish New Year* by Eric A. Kimmel (J240.2)**

When his sins threaten the lives of his beloved twin children, a Jewish man finally repents of his wicked ways. See also: *Days of Awe: Stories for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur*.

***Little Red Rosie: A Rosh Hashanah Story* by Eric A. Kimmel (E240.2)**

In this playful version of *The Little Red Hen*, a young girl enlists her bird friends to help make the challah and host a house full of guests for Rosh Hashanah.

***Sound the Shofar!* by Leslie Kimmelman (E240.2)**

Uncle Jake gets to blow the Shofar twice within ten days, as the family celebrates first Rosh Hashanah and then Yom Kippur.

***Mitzi's Mitzvah* by Gloria Koster (E240.2)**

A family and their dog do a good deed visiting a nursing home on Rosh Hashanah.

***Happy Birthday, World: A Rosh Hashanah Celebration* by Latifa Berry Kropf (E240.2)**

This simple board book compares a birthday celebration for people to the things people do to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the birthday of the world.

***It's Shofar Time!* by Latifa Berry Kropf (E240.2)**

Children in a Jewish preschool class do traditional activities for Rosh Hashanah, such as baking challah, blowing the shofar, and performing tashlich.

***Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons* by Alice B. McGinty (E240)**

Rabbi Benjamin's congregation presents him with a special holiday vest - and cooks him so much food that soon its buttons pop off.

***Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah* by Rahel Musleah (J240.2)**

A seder for Rosh Hashanah based on a traditional Sephardic service featuring seasonal foods that symbolize abundance. Also includes folk tales and holiday activities.

***Rosh Hashanah is Coming!* by Tracy Newman (E240.2)**

A family and their dog celebrate the Jewish New Year in this board book for the youngest readers.

***What's the Buzz? Honey for a Sweet New Year* by Allison Ofanansky (E240.2)**

A class in Israel tours a farm to learn how honey is made and used to celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

***Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah* by Sylvia Rouss (E240.2)**

A young spider wants to join in as he watches a family prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

***When the Chickens Went on Strike* by Erica Silverman (E240.2)**

A Jewish boy learns a lesson from the village chickens at the time of Rosh Hashanah.

***Apple Days: A Rosh Hashanah Story* by Allison Soffer (E240.2)**

Katy looks forward to her family's Rosh Hashanah tradition of making applesauce from scratch, but with a new baby, will the family be too busy this year?

***Even Higher* by Richard Ungar (E240.2)**

Curious over the disappearance of his beloved rabbi every year on the day before Rosh Hashanah, Reuven decides to follow him to get the answers he and the villagers seek, and learns a great deal in the process. See also: *Even Higher* by Eric Kimmel.

***New Year at the Pier* by April Wayland (E240.2)**

On Rosh Hashanah, Izzy and his family make lists of the wrongs they have committed over the past year, and after they have apologized, they throw pieces of bread into the water for tashlich.

***Sliding into the New Year* by Dori Weinstein (J240.2)**

Fifth-grader Ellie plans to visit a water park with her friend until her twin brother Joel tells her it conflicts with Rosh Hashanah.



***A Moon for Moe & Mo* by Jane Breskin Zalben (E240.2)**

Moses Feldman and Mohammed Hassan both live on Flatbush Avenue, but when they meet at the grocery store they quickly become best friends, sharing a picnic while their families prepare for the holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan. See also: *Happy New Year, Beni*.

Yom Kippur:



***Yom Kippur Shortstop* by David A. Adler (E240.2)**

Jacob loves baseball, and he knows his team counts on him. But when a critical game is scheduled on the holiday of Yom Kippur, he doesn't know what to do. In this reflection of the Sandy Koufax story, Jacob discovers the value of prayer and of being on different kinds of teams.

***Yussel's Prayer* by Barbara Cohen (E240.2)**

A boy's simple but sincere Yom Kippur prayer is instrumental in ending the day's fast.

***The Hardest Word* by Jacqueline Jules (E240.2)**

The Ziz, a huge bird that is clumsy but good-hearted, learns the importance of apologizing.

***Sam & Charlie (and Sam too!)* by Leslie Kimmelman (JF)**

This collection of five short stories about three friends, who are also neighbors, includes "I'm Sorry Day" about Yom Kippur.

***Sammy Spider's First Yom Kippur* by Sylvia A. Rouss (E240.2)**

Sammy Spider learns about the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur.

***The Magic of Kol Nidre* by Bruce Siegel (E240.2)**

The magic of the Kol Nidre prayer is explored from the viewpoint of three generations.

Sukkot:

***Is it Sukkot Yet?* by Chris Barash (E240.3)**

When fall arrives, a family builds a sukkah for the celebration of the Jewish harvest festival, Sukkot. See also: *Is it Rosh Hashanah Yet?*

***The Vanishing Gourds: A Sukkot Mystery* by Susan Axe-Bronk (E240.3)**

Sara and her brother Avi try to discover why the gourds keep vanishing from their family's sukkah.

***Engineer Ari and the Sukkah Express* by Deborah Bodin Cohen (E240.3)**

When the friends he has made on the new railroad line give Engineer Ari things to help build and decorate a sukkah in his courtyard, he is sad that they cannot come and enjoy it with him.

***Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen (JF)**

This endearing story links Sukkot and Thanksgiving through the school experiences of an immigrant child. Also available on DVD.



***Never Too Quiet* by Barbara Diamond Goldin (E240.3)**

Rabbi Pinchas was worn out and tired. Everyone kept coming to him with their problems--he had no time to study! But when he stopped accepting visitors in his Sukkah, it felt very quiet. Is it possible it was too quiet?

***Shanghai Sukkah* by Heidi Smith Hyde (E240.3)**

To escape the Nazis, a young Jewish boy named Marcus and his family move to Shanghai, where Marcus and his new friend Liang build a sukkah on the roof and together they celebrate Sukkot and the Chinese Moon Festival.

***The Mysterious Guests* by Eric A. Kimmel (E240.3)**

Three mysterious guests appear at generous but impoverished Ezra's table on Sukkot and bless him, while they bring curses upon his rich but selfish brother Eben.

***The Very Crowded Sukkah* by Leslie Kimmelman (E240.3)**

What happens if it rains on Sukkot? The sukkah may be just the right shelter for some very surprising guests.

***Sadie's Sukkah Breakfast* by Jamie Korngold (E240.3)**

Two siblings plan a special breakfast in their family's sukkah during the holiday of Sukkot.

***It's Sukkah Time* by Latifa Berry Kropf (E240.3)**

Color photographs and simple text depict preschoolers celebrating in a Sukkah.

***Sukkot Treasure Hunt* by Allison Ofanansky (E240.3)**

In Israel, a young girl and her family go on a scavenger hunt to find the "four species" of Sukkot.

***Sky-High Sukkah* by Rachel Ornstein Packer (E240.3)**

When Leah and Ari build a Sukkah on Ari's rooftop, the neighbors get together to help decorate it and everyone enjoys the Sukkot holiday together.

***Tikvah Means Hope.* by Patricia Polacco (E240.3)**

After a devastating fire in the hills of Oakland, California during Sukkot, a Jewish family and their neighbors find symbols of hope amidst the ashes.

***A Watermelon in the Sukkah* by Sylvia Rouss (E240.3)**

A class of preschool students wonders how to hang a watermelon in the sukkah. See also: *Sammy Spider's First Simchat Torah* and *Sammy Spider's First Sukkot*.

***The Best Sukkot Pumpkin Ever* by Laya Steinberg (E240.3)**



When Micah and his family volunteer to pick pumpkins for a soup kitchen, he also hopes to get the perfect pumpkin for himself, but soon learns that giving to others can be even better. Includes facts about Sukkot.

***Bubbe Isabella and the Sukkot Cake* by Kelly Terwilliger (E240.3)**

Bubbe Isabella invites many animal guests to spend Sukkot with her, but they are more interested in eating the Sukkah than her lovely lemon cake.

***The Sukkah That I Built* by Rochel Groner Vorst (E240.3)**

With the help of his family, a young Jewish boy builds a sukkah.

***Shaking in the Shack* by Dori Weinstein (JF)**

Joel Silver loves to be a comedian and to play practical jokes. However, when he, his twin sister Ellie and the rest of their fifth-grade Hebrew school class find something surprising in the synagogue's sukkah, it's no laughing matter.

Simchat Torah:

***Gittel and the Bell* by Roberta Goldshlag Cooks (E240.3)**

Since everyone scolded eight-year-old Gittel in the past for ringing the town bell on unimportant occasions, she is not sure what to do when she finds the missing Torah.



***Simchat Torah is Coming!* by Tracy Newman (E240.3)**

A family joyously celebrates Simchat Torah at synagogue in this simple board book. See also: *Sukkot is Coming!*

***The Patchwork Torah* by Allison Ofanansky (E240.3)**

David learned from his grandfather to be a *sofer*, or scribe, and to care for the Torah scrolls that he receives, no matter their condition, until one day he assembles a complete scroll from pieces damaged in the Holocaust, fire, and floods.

***When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge Street* by Elsa Okon Rael (E240.3)**

While staying with her grandparents in New York City in the mid-1930s, eight-year-old Zeesie joins in the celebration of Simchat Torah and sees a different side of her stern grandfather.

***Maya Prays for Rain* by Susan Tarcov (E240.3)**

It's a sunny fall day in Maya's neighborhood, and all her neighbors are busy with outdoor activities. But Maya learns that today is Shemini Atzeret, when the Jewish community prays for rain. Rain will ruin her neighbors' day! Maya rushes to warn them. Luckily, as her rabbi explains to her, it turns out that she doesn't need to worry.

DVDs:

***A Whale of a New Year* (Alef Bet Blast-Off)**

Puppets David and Rachel, with the help of Mitzvah Mouse, learn about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippor, as well as the story of Jonah and the whale.

Molly's Pilgrim

Based on the book by Barbara Cohen, this live-action film carries a message about religious tolerance, Thanksgiving, Sukkot, and growing up.

***Monsters in the Sukkah* (Shalom Sesame)**

Avigail and Brosh's plans to welcome their guests come crashing down with their Sukkah. But, with a little help from their friends, they can rebuild it in time for Sukkot.

***The Sticky Shofar* (Shalom Sesame)**

Grover, Avigail and Brosh learn a valuable lesson in friendship and forgiveness, just in time to start the new year right!