



# Holiday Resources

## in the Pinsof Children's Reading Room

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot & Simchat Torah

### **Rosh Hashanah:**

**NEW!** *Apples, Apples, All Year Round: A Celebration of Jewish Holidays* by Barbara Bietz & June Sobel  
“Apples, apples, all year round, juicy, fresh, and yummy / Apples, apples, sweet new year, apples dipped in honey.” So begins this simple, rhyming tour through the Jewish holidays with apples as the lens.

### ***Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride* by Deborah Bodin Cohen**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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.

### ***Gershon's Monster: A Story for the Jewish New Year* by Eric A. Kimmel**

When his sins threaten the lives of his beloved twin children, a Jewish man finally repents of his wicked ways. See also *Big Sam: A Rosh Hashanah Tall Tale* and *Little Red Rosie: A Rosh Hashanah Story*.

### ***Gabriel's Horn* by Eric A. Kimmel**

Gabriel's family, after receiving an antique horn from a mysterious soldier, suddenly begins to prosper and the more they help their neighbors, the more successful they become, causing the horn to begin to shine. See also *Days of Awe: Stories for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur*.

### ***Mitzi's Mitzvah* by Gloria Koster**

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

***It's Shofar Time!* by Latifa Berry Kropf**

Children in a Jewish preschool class do traditional activities for Rosh Hashanah, such as baking challah, blowing the shofar, and performing tashlich. See also *Happy Birthday, World: A Rosh Hashanah Celebration*.

**NEW! *Measuring a Year: A Rosh Hashanah Story* by Linda Elovitz Marshall**

Rhyming text invites young readers and their families to take stock of the happy times, the occasional regrets, as well as new friends made and new skills gained over the year in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

***Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah* by Rahel Musleah**

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

***What's the Buzz? Honey for a Sweet New Year* by Allison Ofanansky**

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

**NEW! *Once Upon an Apple Cake: A Rosh Hashanah Story* by Elana Rubinstein**

Ten-year-old Saralee Siegal, who loves to cook and help at her family's restaurant, has a heightened sense of smell but still cannot identify what makes her Zadie's special cake the best.

***Apple Days: A Rosh Hashanah Story* by Allison Soffer**

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?

**NEW! *Shana Tovah, Grover!* by Joni Kibort Sussman**

Grover prepares for Rosh Hashanah, cleaning the house, blowing the shofar, and eating apples and honey. See also *I'm Sorry, Grover!* by Tilda Balsley.

***Even Higher* by Richard Ungar**

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**

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**

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

**NEW! *Rachel's Roses* by Ferida Wolff**

In the Lower East Side of Manhattan during the early 1900s, third-grader Rachel's mother boldly starts her own dressmaking business and Rachel discovers the perfect way to set herself apart from tagalong little sister Hannah on Rosh Hashanah.

**NEW! *Something New for Rosh Hashanah* by Jane Yolen**

Becca refuses to try any new foods, until her family persuades her that Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is a time to try something new.

***A Moon for Moe & Mo* by Jane Breskin Zalben**

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**

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.

***Yussel's Prayer* by Barbara Cohen**

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

***The Hardest Word* by Jacqueline Jules**

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

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

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**

Sammy Spider learns about the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur. See also *Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah*.

***The Magic of Kol Nidre* by Bruce Siegel**

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

**Sukkot:**

***Is it Sukkot Yet?* by Chris Barash**

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

***The Vanishing Gourds: A Sukkot Mystery* by Susan Axe-Bronk**

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**

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**

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**

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? See also ***Night Lights: A Sukkot Story***.

**NEW!** ***The Stars Will Be My Nightlight: A Sukkot Story* by Jen Halpern**

When a boy and his mother spend the night in the sukkah and it begins to rain, she gently reassures her son that the sukkah will protect them just as it did for their ancestors when they left Egypt.

***Shanghai Sukkah* by Heidi Smith Hyde**

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**

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.

**NEW!** ***Who's Got the Etrog?* by Jane Kohuth**

When Auntie Sanyu celebrates Sukkot at her home with family and animal friends who are Ugandan Jews--the Abayudaya--Warthog will not let go of the *etrog*.

***Sadie's Sukkah Breakfast* by Jamie Korngold**

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

***It's Sukkah Time* by Latifa Berry Kropf**

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

**NEW!** ***Hillel Builds a House* by Shoshana Lepon**

A young boy who loves to build houses learns that the perfect holiday for him is Sukkot.

**NEW!** ***The Elephant in the Sukkah* by Sherri Mandell**

Former circus elephant Henry follows the sound of music to the Broner family's sukkah and a little boy has a clever way to include Henry in the holiday fun.

**NEW!** ***The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda* by Shoshana Nambi**

Sukkot is Shoshi's favorite Jewish holiday because she and her brothers love to decorate their sukkah. But who will win the Ugandan Abayudaya community's annual sukkah contest? While only one sukkah can be the best, everybody wins when neighbors work together.

***Sukkot Treasure Hunt* by Allison Ofanansky**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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

***Shaking in the Shack* by Dori Weinstein**

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**

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**

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

***The Patchwork Torah* by Allison Ofanansky**

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**

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**

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.