

Kayla and Kugel's Playful Purim

By Ann D. Koffsky

READING GUIDE

About the Book

In this fifth book of the Kayla & Kugel series, Kayla teaches her dog Kugel about celebrating the Jewish holiday of Purim. Together they bake triangular, jam-filled cookies called hamantaschen, including some doggie-taschen for Kugel. Then they dress in costumes and go to synagogue to hear the story of Queen Esther saving the Jewish people from Haman and his plan to get rid of all the Jewish people.

Filled with colorful illustrations, simple language, and Kugel's silly antics, this book is the perfect introduction to Purim.

An endnote explains the holiday and traditions of Purim and includes discussion questions to engage with readers.

Ann D. Koffsky has written and/or illustrated more than thirty books for children, including *Kayla and Kugel*, *Kayla and Kugel's Almost-Perfect Passover*, *Kayla and Kugel's Happy Hanukkah*, *What's In Tuli's Box?* and *Under-the-Sea Seder*. She lives in West Hempstead, New York.



Key Themes:

Celebration, Family, Community, Purim Rituals and Traditions

ISBN 978-1-68115-670-5

Ages 2–5 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children. Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

Before Reading

- Have you heard the word “Purim” before? What do you know about this holiday?
- Looking at the cover of this book, what do you notice? What are the characters doing? Where do you think they are?
- What do you think might happen in the story?

After Reading

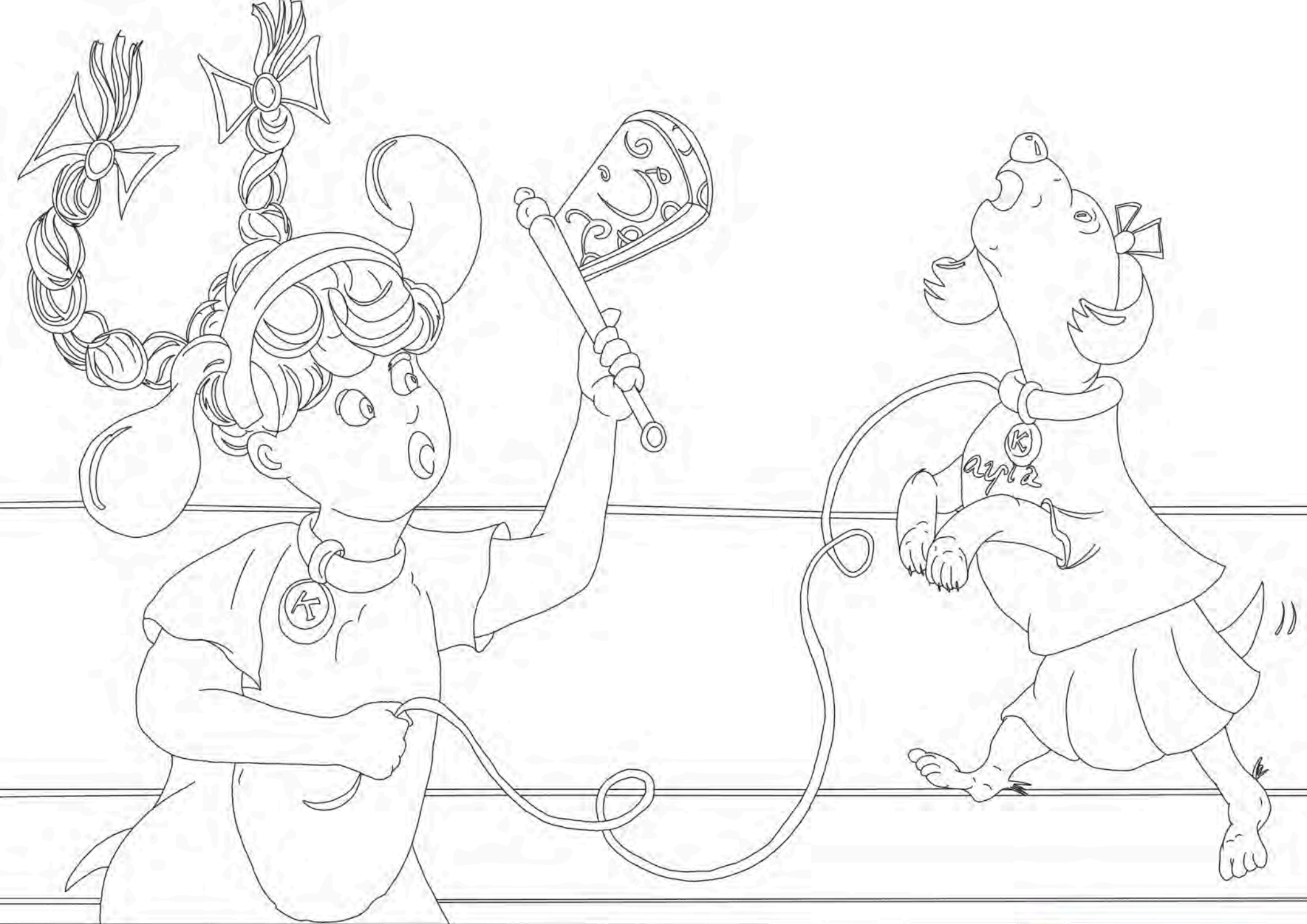
- The title of the book includes the word “playful.” What playful things did Kayla and Kugel do in the story?
- What costumes do you see costumes in the book? Who is Kugel dressed up as? Kayla? Why do you think they chose those costumes?
- Look at the drawing of Esther and Mordecai inside the scroll. How is that different from the other drawings in the book? Why do you think the artist chose to make it different in that way?
- At the end of the story, Kayla says that “A Purim meal is most fun with friends.” In what ways do you think friends can make a meal more fun?

Optional: Extension Activity

Make your own Purim Gragger:

1. Get an empty container with a removable lid (*like an empty oatmeal box, or an empty plastic bottle*).
2. Fill the container with something that can make noises when shaken (*like raw macaroni noodles, buttons, beads, or coins*).
3. Decorate your container. Ideas: Draw on construction paper and then glue it to the container; add stickers to the container; glue colorful tissue paper to the container.
4. Bring your new gragger with you if you go to hear the megillah, or use it as a fun noisemaker in your home.





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Character Cut Outs

