

Kayla and Kugel's Silly Sukkot

By Ann D. Koffsky

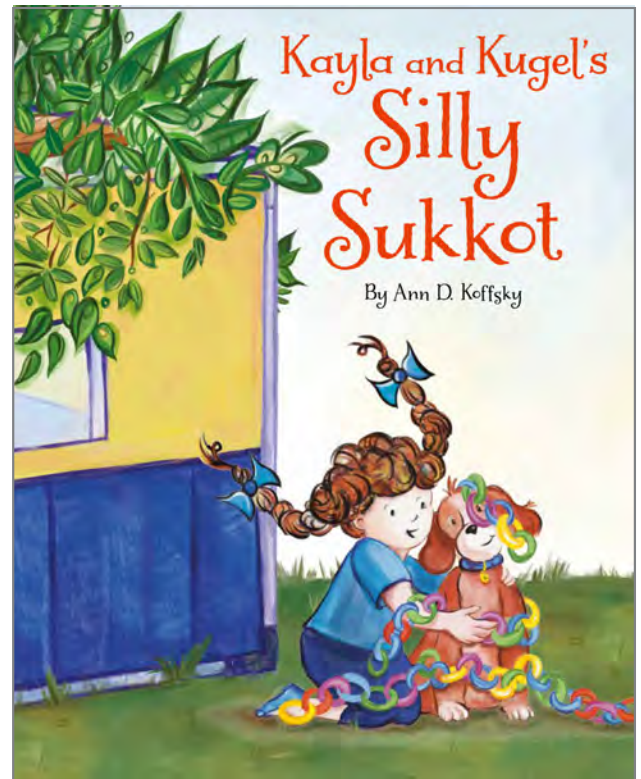
READING & ACTIVITY GUIDE

About the Book

In the fourth Kayla and Kugel book, Kayla helps her family build and decorate their sukkah in the backyard. As her puppy, Kugel, playfully interferes, Kayla energetically helps with the holiday preparations while explaining to her pup how and why they are building and decorating this temporary house in their backyard for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

The story uses simple, direct language that young children will find easy to grasp. Colorful illustrations include a comparison of an ancient hut with a modern-day sukkah.

An end note from the author provides additional details about this harvest time celebration, with its emphasis on giving thanks and welcoming friends, and includes suggestions for creating decorations for a sukkah.



Key Themes:

Family; celebrating Sukkot; being thankful; community and friends; traditions; learning about ancestors and history

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Ages 3–6 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 ever heard the word "Sukkot" before? If so, what does it mean to you?
- Looking at the cover of this book, what do you notice? What are the characters doing? What else do you see?
- What do you think might happen in the story?

After Reading

- What elements in this book seem familiar to you?
- Is the way Kayla and Kugel celebrate Sukkot similar to any celebrations you do with your family?
- What kinds of silly things does Kugel do in the story? Why do you think Kugel does them?
- Toward the end of the book, Kayla tells Kugel that, "we build our own sukkah to remind us to be thankful for our cozy home." What else can we be thankful for?
- Compare the Israelite's sukkah with Kayla's. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Look at the table toward the end of the book. What objects do you see on the table? Are they the same or different from objects you would see at an everyday dinner table?

Optional: Extension Activity

Create a gratitude flower to decorate your sukkah or home.

Here's how:

1. Use the smaller end of a paper cup to trace a circle in the center of a paper plate.
2. Draw five large ovals around the circle, to create the petals of a flower.
3. In each petal, write the word for something you are grateful for.
4. Circle each word. Then color in each petal, around the circle. (Be careful not to color on top of the words.)
5. Punch a hole in the top of the plate, thread the yarn through, and tie. Hang in your sukkah or home.

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Character Cut Outs



