

Kayla and Kugel's Super Sweet Rosh Hashanah

By Ann D. Koffsky

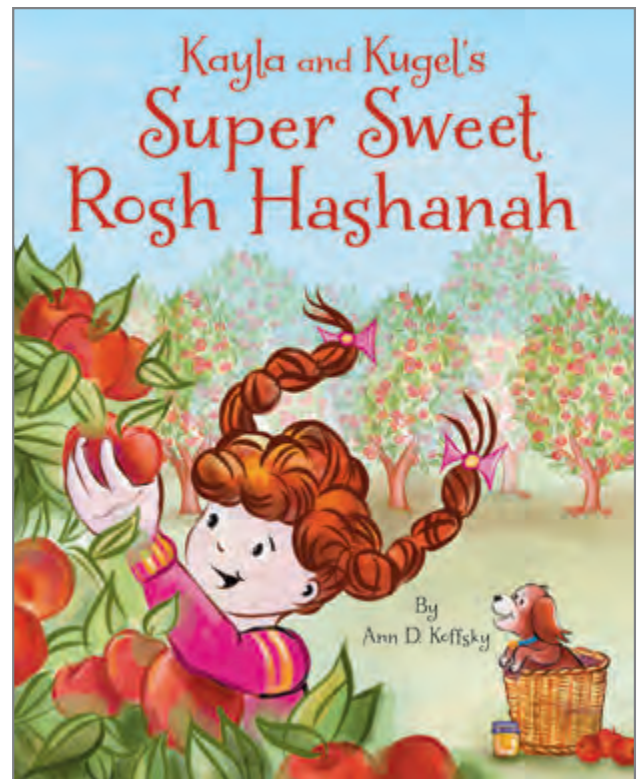
READING GUIDE

About the Book

In this sixth book of the popular series, Kayla and her mischievous dog Kugel prepare for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. They gather the apples, honey, and challah needed for dinner. Oh no! Kugel is covered in honey! He makes a wet mess while splashing splashes in the pond that Kayla will throw breadcrumbs into later in a ritual called *taschlich*, and howls along as Kayla and her father practice blowing the shofar. It's all okay. Rosh Hashanah is a time to promise to try to do better in the year ahead.

This series provides an accessible entrance for young children to learn about the Jewish holidays, with bright and fun illustrations and simple language.

Ann D. Koffsky has written and/or illustrated more than fifty books for children, including *Kayla and Kugel*, *Kayla and Kugel's Almost-Perfect Passover*, *Kayla and Kugel's Happy Hanukkah*, *Kayla and Kugel's Silly Sukkot*, *Kayla and Kugel's Playful Purim*, *The Peddler and the President*, *What's In Tuli's Box?* and *Under-the-Sea Seder* all published by Apples & Honey Press. She lives in West Hempstead, New York.



Key Themes:

Friendship, New beginnings, Rosh Hashanah themes and rituals, Self-reflection and evaluation

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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

- The title of the book includes a holiday's name: Rosh Hashanah. What do you already know about Rosh Hashanah? What would you like to learn about it?
- Looking at the cover of this book, what do you notice? Where are the characters? What are they doing?
- What do you think might happen in the story?

After Reading

- Think of a birthday party or another celebration that you have had in your home. How did you prepare for it? In what ways was it similar to how Kayla and Kugel prepared for Rosh Hashanah? In what ways was it different?
- Look carefully at the illustration of the farmer's market. What foods are being sold there? Why do you think the illustrator chose to include each of these foods in this book?
- What kinds of silly things does Kugel do in the story? Why do you think Kugel does them?
- At the end of the story, Kayla welcomes "Bubbie and Grandpa". Bubbie is the Yiddish word for Grandma. Why do you think one of Kayla's grandparents has a Yiddish name and the other an English name?
- In the story, Kayla says that Rosh Hashanah is a time to "think about last year's mistakes." Do you think it's a good thing to think about our mistakes? How can thinking about our mistakes help us be our best selves?

Extension Activity 1: Shanah Tovah Sign

You will need:

- 1 or 2 apples
- Tempura or acrylic paint
- A paper plate
- A marker or crayon
- A sheet of heavy paper (cardstock, construction paper, or even a brown, paper grocery bag.)

Directions:

Step 1: ask a grown-up to cut the apples in half

Step 2: With the marker or crayon, draw: Happy New year! Or Shanah Tovah! onto the paper

Step 3: Pour your paint onto the paper plate (not too much!)

Step 4: Holding the apple half by the side that has its peel, press its other half into the paint.

Step 5: Stamp the painted side of the apple onto your paper around the words that you've written. Repeat as often as you like!

Step 6: after the paint has dried, hang your sign on your door or in your home.

Extension Activity 2: Coloring Pages

Visit the author's website here: <https://annkoffsky.com/coloring-pages/>

Click on the Kayla and Kugel coloring packet to print out coloring pages of the characters celebrating Rosh Hashanah and other Jewish holidays.





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Character Cut Outs

