

## About the Book

It's just three days until the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Tzipporah and her family are getting ready for the traditional holiday feast. Family and friends gather to help harvest and clean the fall root vegetables, mix them with honey and dried fruits, and cook them into a sweet vegetable stew, called tzimmes, "for a sweet new year." It's hard but satisfying work that leaves everyone with aching arms, sore feet, and happy hearts.

When Rosh Hashanah morning arrives, everyone join together at the synagogue to hear the shofar, the ram's horn that is blown to announce that the new year has arrived. Back at home on their farm with a diverse group of friends and neighbors, they celebrate both the new year and the joy of being together.



## Key Themes:

Family; farming; harvesting; baking; cooking; togetherness; celebration; Rosh Hashanah; diversity and inclusion

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Ages 4–7 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

- Look at the cover of the book. Guess what “tzimmes” means.
- What’s on the cover of the book that might tell you what the story will be about? (possible answers: fall/autumn, harvest, farm/country, fruit, vegetables)
- What are the names of the items on the inside cover of the book?

## While Reading

- After reading the first page, ask: What secret could the earth have?

## After Reading

- What were some of the earth’s treasures that were found?
- Why do you think Tzipporah didn’t think the food would taste good?
- Tell about a time you helped prepare a meal.

## Optional: Extension Activity

- Provide the root vegetables (rutagagas, yams, turnips, potatoes and carrots) that were harvested in Tzimmes for Tzipporah and have a taste test. You may need to try them prepared in multiple ways; the recipe for tzimmes at the end of the book can get you started!
- Take a trip to a farm to watch how vegetables are harvested and possibly help pick/dig them up.
- Plant your own vegetable garden, even in a pot, and watch how they grow. When ready, harvest them yourselves to eat.
- Cut the root vegetables in half so there is a flat side, then dip it into paint or color over them with ink/makers and use them as stamps to create greeting cards.

# Tzimmes for Tzipporah

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# Character Cut Outs



