



KAYLA AND KUGEL'S ALMOST-PERFECT PASSOVER

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Passover in Kayla's house is always fun – but it gets a little messy when Kugel the dog is involved. And who's going to help find that afikoman?

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Kayla's excited – and who can blame her? Her family is hosting a *seder*, the ritual meal that is the main event of the Jewish holiday of Passover. Family and friends will gather together to recall the story of the Exodus (detailed in the second book of the Bible) and celebrate the ancient Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. *Seder* means “order” in Hebrew, and a Passover *seder* follows a specific order outlined in the *Haggadah*, the traditional holiday text. When Kayla and her family dip parsley in salt water, eat matzah (special unleavened bread for Passover), sing the Four Questions (which ask why a *seder* night is different from other nights of the year), and hunt for the *afikomen* (matzah from the *seder* table that's hidden during the meal), they are taking part in centuries-old traditions designed to bring the story of Passover alive.

Kayla is very involved in her family's *seder*, and that's not unusual. Traditionally, the youngest child who is able sings the Four Questions, and it is very often children who hunt for the *afikomen*, which must be found before the *seder* can end. Children's participation is expected; a *seder* is all about passing the story of Passover from one generation to the next. Kugel's participation? That's just a bonus! *Chag Pesach Sameach* – Happy Passover!

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Kayla and Kugel are looking forward to hunting for the *afikomen*, but that's not the only hide-and-seek ritual at Passover time. It is traditional to clear all leavened food products (known as *chametz*) out of the house before the holiday begins – every crumb! The night before Passover, many households search for anything leavened in a ritual called *bedikat chametz*.

The ritual of *bedikat chametz* traditionally involves three items: a candle, a feather, and a spoon. Family members search for *chametz* by the candlelight, then use the feather as a broom to sweep the crumbs into the spoon. The next morning, it is customary to burn the *chametz*, leaving the house ready for Passover.

Even very small children can take part in the *bedikat chametz* ritual – just treat it as a treasure hunt. Place half a dozen or so small bits of bread around the house, and then let your children loose with a feather and a big wooden spoon! This is just one of many ways to get the whole family involved at Passover – some traditional, some a bit more unconventional. Visit pjlibrary.org/passover for more ideas on engaging young children at a *seder*. The more fun Passover is for kids, the more they'll learn about their heritage and culture – just like Kayla and Kugel.