



# RED, BLUE AND YELLOW YARN

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*Danny's grandmother is very prim and proper – and Danny is neither. He thinks that she doesn't like him. But when Danny makes a big mistake, Bubbie surprises him – and shows him the love and forgiveness that is passed down generation after generation.*

## JEWISH CONCEPTS

Donny made a mistake -- a very messy mistake. He's upset, and his Mom and *Bubby* (Yiddish for Grandma) are, too. There are times when both children and adults need to reflect on their behavior. The Jewish calendar provides us with an annual opportunity to do just this. On *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement, Jews are commanded to look within, recall the events of the past year, take responsibility, and apologize for our mistakes. That's what Donny needs to do.

In Jewish tradition, children occupy an exalted status. Kids are to be seen *and* heard and, at times, helped along by grown-ups with lessons from our past. This sharing of collective wisdom, both formal and folksy, is known in Hebrew as *l'dor v'dor*, "from generation to generation."

Bubby reveals to Donny a naughty episode from her own childhood. She shares how *her* grandmother's kind and helpful response helped her feel better. It is this decades-old memory that inspires Bubby as she lovingly helps her tearful grandson forgive himself. While everyone must be accountable for his/her own actions, we all need help from others at times. The process of self-reflection and self-improvement is ongoing and helped tremendously when wisdom acquired over the ages is passed *l'dor v'dor*.

## USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

On *Yom Kippur*, Jewish tradition instructs that before we can ask forgiveness from God, we must make amends with those on earth we have hurt. For young children, *Yom Kippur* might be understood as "I'm Sorry Day." It can be a challenge for children to reflect on their behavior. It might help to consider Donny's situation and then apply it to oneself. Consider asking your child these questions:

- Why do you think Bubby came into the room to help Donny clean up the yarn?
- Were you surprised that Bubby had been naughty as a little girl? How did it help Donny feel better to know his Bubby had misbehaved?
- What was something you did this year that you regretted? Did you say you were sorry and "clean up" your mistake? If not, would you consider saying "I'm sorry" now?

## Be a Reporter

Encourage your child to interview a special elderly friend or relative. Ask about his/her favorite game, favorite thing to eat, or childhood friends. Invite your child to come up with his/her own questions for the interview.