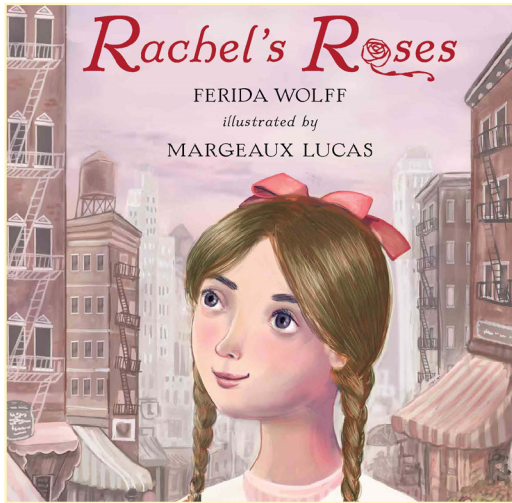


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{ **What will you give up for those you love?** }

New Outfit, New You

It's almost Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year — and Rachel's mother is working hard to finish Mrs. Golden's dress in time. Wearing something new on the New Year nods to the idea of turning over a new leaf, which is what the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) are all about. Reflecting on our mistakes and setting goals to do better is known as teshuvah, Hebrew for "returning" — we return to our best selves. At the start of this story, Rachel focuses on improving her wardrobe, but by the time Rosh Hashanah rolls around, she's improving herself. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/rachelsroses.

HANDS ON!

Make a Button Card for Rosh Hashanah

Many people send Rosh Hashanah cards to family and friends. Buttons were pricey in Rachel's day, but today we often have buttons to spare — so why not use some of them to create a homemade Rosh Hashanah card?

Supplies

Card stock
Art supplies
Spare buttons
Glue

Fold the card stock in half. Draw whatever picture you like on the outside, then write your greeting on the inside. As the final step, glue buttons to the outside drawing. For example, if you draw a tree, you can glue the buttons on as fruit. If you draw a car, the buttons can be wheels. The possibilities are endless — you are limited only by your imagination (and your supply of buttons). Shanah tovah — happy new year!

Dream Land

Between the early 1880s and the mid-1920s, more than 2.5 million Eastern European Jews immigrated to the US to escape persecution and pursue the American dream. Many settled in the Lower East Side of New York City, where this story is set. Life was not always dreamy, however. Tenement buildings like Rachel's were crowded, and families often struggled to make a living. Many women like Rachel's mother worked in garment sweatshops where conditions were notoriously bad. Mrs. Berger dreams of something better — and it turns out Rachel can help.

Justice of the Peace

This story takes place around a century ago. A lot has changed since then, but one thing hasn't: siblings still get on each other's nerves. Shalom bayit (Hebrew for "peace in the home") is an important value in Jewish life, which is why Rachel's parents and Bubbie keep encouraging Rachel to go easy on her little sister, Hannah. In many traditional Jewish sources, shalom bayit focuses on the relationship between a married couple, but all family members benefit from a little peace and harmony — sisters included.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS story takes place around a hundred years ago. Which details are different from today? Which are the same?

COMPARE Rachel's behavior at the start of this story with her behavior at the end. How does she change? What's a change you might want to make this coming year?

RACHEL wants to dress up for Rosh Hashanah because it's a special day. What do you wear on special occasions? How does it make you feel?