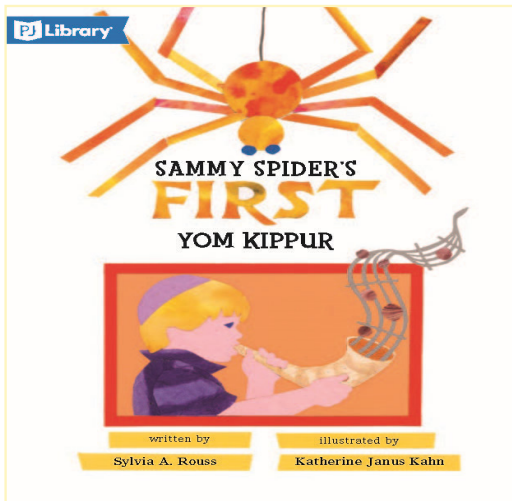


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{ **How do we change?** }

**Wake-Up Call**

The shofar, a traditional Jewish instrument made from a ram's horn, makes a loud, startling sound that makes you jump a little, as Sammy does at the beginning of this story. It's supposed to be a little startling. In Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur synagogue services, the shofar serves as a sort of wake-up call to think about our lives and resolve to make positive changes in the coming year. It's a process called teshuvah – "returning" to one's higher self. The sound of the shofar is a call to the soul – what is it saying to you? To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/sammysyomkippur](http://pjlibrary.org/sammysyomkippur).

**HANDS ON!**

**"Wash" Mistakes Away**

Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, many people participate in a ritual called tashlich, which comes from the Hebrew word meaning "to cast away." Tashlich involves throwing bread crumbs into a body of water to symbolically wash away the mistakes of the past year. Here's a craft that lets you "wash" away mistakes at home.

Supplies:

- Washable markers
- Extra-large coffee filters

Use the washable markers to draw pictures on the coffee filters of things that you are sorry for and don't want to repeat in the new year. As you draw, reflect on these mistakes and resolve to do better. Take the filters to the sink or bathtub, place them in water, and watch the mistakes wash away. Shanah tovah--happy new year! Here's to fresh starts.

**The Tangled Webs We Weave**

Relationships are sometimes like a tangled spider's web. We say the wrong thing, make assumptions, cause misunderstandings, and suddenly we're caught in a sticky mess. Yom Kippur is a chance to clear the record, set things straight, and then move forward. As Josh learns in this story, it's not always easy to own up to what we've done wrong, but once we say "I'm sorry," the process of repair can begin. As the 18th-century Hasidic teacher Rabbi Nachman of Breslav said, "If you believe breaking is possible, believe fixing is possible."

**It Takes Two**

An apology is not a one-way street. Almost as hard as saying "sorry" is saying "I forgive you" -- and meaning it. In this story, Josh's parents (and Sammy and his mother) could have chosen to remain angry at Josh, even after his apology. But they meet his heartfelt words with their own: "We accept your apology." Yom Kippur is about both sides – asking forgiveness from those we've wronged, and forgiving those who have wronged us. Both take courage, but little boys and little spiders agree that it's worth it.

**TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS**

- WHEN** have you had to say sorry to someone? What was it like?
- WHEN** someone tells you they're sorry, what do you say to them?
- CAN** you make a list of people and animals to whom you'd like to say sorry?