



Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

written by
Kevin Henkes

illustrated by
Kevin Henkes

{ How do we grow? }

Turn It Around

Poor Lilly feels terrible. She's made a mistake and hurt someone she adores. Now she has to make amends, which is something we all have to do sometimes, and which Jews make a special point of doing in the days leading up to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The central focus of Yom Kippur is teshuvah (Hebrew for repentance), which refers to turning ourselves around and trying to do better. When we recognize we've done something wrong, we apologize and make a sincere attempt not to do it again. When Lilly apologizes to Mr. Slinger and receives his forgiveness, she's on top of the world! Teshuvah really turns things around for her. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/lilyspurpleplasticpurse.

HANDS ON!

Make Your Own Purse

Lilly loves that purple plastic purse so much. Why not make your own purse? It doesn't need to be plastic or even purple to be special.

Supplies:

Two plain paper plates (dinner size)

Scissors

Glue

Hole punch

Ribbon or yarn (about two yards)

Art supplies: markers, crayons, stickers, etc.

Fold one paper plate in half, crease it, and then unfold it. Cut the decorative rim off of the top half of the plate.

Cut another paper plate in half. Take one half of that paper plate and glue it to the bottom half of the first paper plate, forming a pouch.

Once the glue has dried, punch holes along the bottom half of the plates that are glued together.

Lace the ribbon or yarn through the holes. Tie the leftover ends of the ribbon together, creating a strap.

Fold the top half down to create the opening to your purse. Decorate as you like!

Just Between Us

On Yom Kippur we ask God to forgive us, both individually and collectively, for the mistakes we've made all year. But we can't stop there. According to Jewish thought, asking God for forgiveness doesn't address the mistakes we've made with other people. For that, we need to talk directly to the people we've hurt. When Lilly owns up and apologizes to Mr. Slinger, she's doing the hard work known as bein adam lehavero (Hebrew for "between one person and another"). Is it easy? No. But as this book shows, it's worth it.

Déjà Vu All Over Again

How do we know when we're really sorry, and not just saying it? Jewish philosophers have hit upon an answer: When you find yourself in the same situation again, this time you get it right. This is Lilly's moment of truth: Through the whole school day, Lilly's purse, coins, and sunglasses sit inside her desk, and while she peeks at them from time to time, she doesn't take them out. She's taken the lesson to heart, and it makes her feel relieved and happy. In the long run, making the right choices is best for everyone, including ourselves.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

HOW does Lilly behave the first time she brings her purple purse to school? How does she behave the next day? Why does her behavior change?

LILLY'S feelings about school and Mr. Slinger change rapidly throughout the story. Find a picture in this book and describe how Lilly might be thinking or feeling.

IF you were Lilly, what might you have done to let Mr. Slinger know you were sorry?