

## **JUST FOR KIDS – SEPTEMBER 2025**

### **SEPTEMBER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS**

#### **LABOR DAY – MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

The first Monday in September is **Labor Day**, a day to celebrate the American worker. We think of Labor Day as a day off from school and work. But what is it really about? You can find out at some of the sites below.

#### **LEARN ABOUT LABOR DAY** (ages 8 and up) **Video**

Why do we celebrate Labor Day? Do you know that once people could get fired for working on weekends or for taking a vacation? See how working conditions have changed over the years and what made them change.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY\\_L8--kNB0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY_L8--kNB0)

#### **LABOR DAY FACTS FOR KIDS** (ages 7 and up) **Video**

Learn some exciting new things in this Labor Day facts video for kids! Learn facts like when Labor Day is, common misunderstandings about Labor Day, who made Labor Day a federal holiday and why we celebrate it in the first place!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8YrXS-fb1Q>

### **ROSH HASHANA – SUNSET SEPTEMBER 22 to SUNSET SEPTEMBER 24**

#### **LEARN ABOUT ROSH HASHANA**

#### **TAP INTO ROSH HASHANA!: "REBBETZIN TAP & FRIENDS"** (ages 6 and up) **video**

Learn about Rosh Hashanah with Rebbetzin Tap. Why do we dip apples in honey? Why do we blow the shofar? Listen to the shofar sounds!

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/2385613/jewish/Tap-into-Rosh-Hashana.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2385613/jewish/Tap-into-Rosh-Hashana.htm)

#### **ROSH HASHANA TO DO LIST** (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Here's a handy guide for how to celebrate Rosh Hashana. It includes the candle lighting and prayers we say, the way to greet people, the sweets we eat, tashlich and more to help you celebrate this special holiday.

*(Note: this year's dates differ from those in the article)*

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/4755/jewish/Rosh-Hashanah-To-Do-List.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4755/jewish/Rosh-Hashanah-To-Do-List.htm)

### **THE SHOFAR** (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Why do we blow the shofar? Why do we use a ram's horn? What do the different shofar sounds represent? This article will answer all your questions.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/4754/jewish/The-Shofar.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4754/jewish/The-Shofar.htm)

### **TASHLICH** (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Do you toss bread in the water for tashlich? Other people shake the corners of their clothes over the water. Learn some interesting facts about the custom of tashlich.

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/4753/jewish/Tashlich.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4753/jewish/Tashlich.htm)

## **ROSH HASHANA ACTIVITIES**

### **MAKE APPLE PRINT ROSH HASHONA CARDS** (ages 5-8)

Did you know you can also use apples for art projects? Everyone loves receiving handmade holiday cards, and these apple prints are so easy and fun to make, you may even end up with enough for next year too!

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/september-2019/make-apple-cards-for-rosh-hashanah>

### **MAKE APPLE HONEY POPS** (ages 10 and up)

Looking for a really sweet treat to start your new year? Grab a few friends and make these apple pops together. The best part about these pops? There are so many ways to make them! Have fun customizing your pops and trying out different dip and topping combinations

<https://pjourway.org/Blog/Kid/2017-08/rosh-hashanah-apple-pops>

### **ROSH HASHONA COLORING PAGES** (ages 5-7)

Print these pages and color in: Color in: Apple Dipped in Honey, The Machzor, The Shofar

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/354757/jewish/Coloring-Pages.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/354757/jewish/Coloring-Pages.htm)

## **FIRST DAY OF FALL - MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Fall 2025 officially begins on Sept. 22. That's the day of the autumnal equinox when day and night are nearly equal in length. This time of year is all about harvests, cozy sweaters and the beauty of nature preparing for winter

### **WHAT IS THE FALL EQUINOX - FACTS FOR KIDS** (ages 10 and up) **Video**

The Fall Equinox happens every year in September and happens at the same exact time on earth everywhere, although there are some differences on our planet which you will learn in this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQyQYNVodMU>

## **STORIES**

### **ROSH HASHANA STORIES**

#### **JACKIE AND JESSIE AND JONI AND JAE** by Chris Barash (ages 5-7) **Read Aloud**

Join these four friends as they go on a walk to the river with their families with their bags of bread for tashlich. When they get there, they think about things they may need to apologize for and ways that they can be better in the future. The story is told in rhyme and illustrations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J20BnzzLeW8>

#### **CHELM FOR THE HOLIDAYS: A ROSH HASHANA STORY** (ages 8 and up) **Text**

*Rosh Hashanah was coming, but for some reason, this year there was no honey in the marketplace in the village of Chelm. What would the people of Chelm do? How could they bake their honey cakes? How could they dip their apples in honey? How will we celebrate Rosh Hashanah without honey? thought Schlemiel.*

*If you know the Wise Men of Chelm stories, then you know this is going to be funny!*

<https://pjourway.org/PJOW/media/Book/previews/ChapterChelmfortheHolidays.pdf?ext=.pdf#:~:text=A%20Rosh%20Hashanah%20Story%20Rosh%20Hashanah%20was%20coming%2C,we%20celebrate%20Rosh%20Hashanah%20without%20honey%3F%20thought%20Schlemiel>

#### **EVEN HIGHER: A ROSH HASHANA STORY** by I.L. Peretz (ages 8-12) **Read Aloud**

Every year, just before Rosh Hashanah, the rabbi of Nemirov disappears. The villagers are certain their rabbi flies up to heaven to speak with G-d before the fate of every soul is decided for the coming year. But a skeptical Litvak scoffs at the villagers, claiming miracles cannot happen, and he secretly follows the rabbi early one morning. What he witnesses changes his heart!

<https://youtu.be/AVsEgvw3uxI>

### **STORIES FOR FALL**

September 22 (the autumnal equinox) marked the official first day of fall. But, as you can see from some of the stories below, it is October and November that mostly show the signs of fall.

#### **HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S FALL?** by Allan Fowler (ages 4-5) **Nonfiction Read Aloud**

Summer is over and now it's fall. The leaves are falling from the trees and the air is getting chilly. Think of other signs of fall you might know. Then listen to this book and find out about some more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQGjgbydSig>

**WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?** by Betsy Maestro (ages 7-10) **Nonfiction Read Aloud**

Aren't autumn leaves beautiful? But, why do they change colors from green to red, orange and yellow? Why are the colors different every year? Why do leaves from different trees turn different colors? Listen to this book explain why this happens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5jTTJ9CjNQ>

**TOO MANY PUMPKINS** by Linda White (ages 7 and up) **Read Aloud**

Rebecca Estelle doesn't like pumpkins at all, and she certainly doesn't want to grow any. But something happens and she ends up with too many pumpkins! What should she do with them? What would you do with too many pumpkins?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGtSLfTJ7xU>

**STORIES FOR BACK TO SCHOOL**

**THE KISSING HAND** by Audrey Penn (ages 4-7) **Read Aloud Animated**

Chester Raccoon is nervous about going to school for the first time, he would rather stay home where things are familiar. But his mother has a secret to share that will help him overcome his fears. What do you think it could be? Listen to the story and find out.

<https://youtu.be/C5XMX5GCCe4>

**TOO MUCH GLUE** by Jason Lifebvre (ages 5 and up) **Read Aloud**

Here's an artistic story about a little boy that just loves his glue! Now what could go wrong with that? Listen to find out how his friends help out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Je39PxnjveY>

**MISS NELSON IS MISSING** by Harry Allard (ages 7 and up) **Animated**

Miss Nelson is the nicest teacher in the whole school. She never yells, and she gives the easiest assignments. Then one day Miss Nelson is not at school. There is a substitute, Miss Viola Swamp, who immediately lays down the law - no talking, no goofing off in class - and gives lots of homework. Where is the wonderful, unappreciated Miss Nelson? Is she ever coming back?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX3g3qigzWU>

**FIRST DAY JITTERS** by Julie Danneberg (ages 7 and up) **Read Aloud**

Have you ever been nervous about going to school on the first day? You're not alone. It happens to many of us, just like Sarah in this story. Be sure to watch for the surprise twist at the end!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUT6lgo2Sus>

## **JEWISH FOLKLORE STORIES**

### **IT COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE** Retold by Margot Zemach (ages 7 and up) **Read Aloud**

When a poor Jewish farmer complains to his Rabbi about how hard it is to live in his one room hut with his wife, his mother, and his six children, the Rabbi comes up with an unusual solution.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRk\\_Vaa56P8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRk_Vaa56P8)

### **JOSEPH HAD A LITTLE OVERCOAT** by SimmsTaback (ages 7 and up) **Animated movie**

When Joseph's coat got too old and shabby, he made it into a jacket. But what did he make it into after that? And after that!

[https://archive.org/details/joseph-had-a-little-overcoat\\_202303](https://archive.org/details/joseph-had-a-little-overcoat_202303)

### **THE GOLEM OF RABBI ELIJAH-THE LEGEND OF THE GOLEM OF CHELM** (ages 10 and up) **Animated**

Jewish folklore has many stories about the golem. In this one, a rabbi creates a character (the golem) out of clay, to be helpful to the people of his village, there are some unexpected results. Rabbi uses clever thinking to take care of the problem. Does this story remind you a little of the story of Frankenstein with a touch of Amelia Bedelia?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8gClvFg11I>

### **VILLAGE OF IDIOTS** (ages 8 and up) **animated**

Do you sometimes think that what you don't have is better than what you have? In this story Shmendrik is getting tired of living in his small village of Chelm. He sets out on a journey to a new place which brings him to a new village of Chelm, which is weirdly like his old Chelm.

There are many stories about "the wise men of Chelm, but many people think they are not wise at all, but instead foolish. After watching this story, what do you think?

<https://youtu.be/cTVdbrniiNA>

## **MUSIC**

### **ROSH HASHONA MUSIC**

#### **DIP THE APPLE IN THE HONEY SONG** (ages 4-6) **Video**

Sing a fun song about apples and honey and try dipping apples in honey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByYzmsmQ3wI>

### **AUTUMN MUSIC**

#### **BOOM CHICKA BOOM AUTUMN**

Sing-a-long and dance along Skeleton Style, Pick an Apple Style, Eat an Apple Style, Turkey Strut Style, Pick a Pumpkin Style, Raking Leaves Style and the hilarious ending, Blowing Leaves Style.

<https://youtu.be/BAOU5HbpFJq>

**Check this out:**

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT CORRELATE WITH THIS MONTH'S TOPICS  
AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY**

**ROSH HASHONA**

1. The World's Birthday - A Rosh Hashona Story, Barbara Diamond Goldin (**FICTION**)
2. Sam and Charlie (And Sam Too!), Leslie Kimmelman
3. Tikkun Olam Ted And the Importance of Small Steps, Vivian Newman
4. Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah, Sylvia Rouss (**FICTION**)
5. Rosh Hashona and the Ten Days of Teshuva – coloring book, Shepsil Scheinberg (**NONFICTION**)
6. Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur, Miriam Schlein (**NONFICTION**)
7. Sound the Shofar (the Story and Meaning of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, Erika Weihs (*young adult*) (**NONFICTION**))
8. Happy New Year, Beni, Jane Breskin Zalben (**FICTION**)

**LEGENDS and FOLKTALES**

1. My Grandfather's Coat, Jim Aylesworth (**FICTION**)
2. Naamah and the Ark at Night, a lullaby, Susan Campbell Bartoletti (**FICTION**)
3. The Tale of Mersha the Kvetch, Carol Chapman (**FICTION**)
4. Bagels From Benny, Aubrey Davis (**FICTION**)
5. The Mountain Jews And The Mirror, Ruchama King Feuerman (**FICTION**)
6. Something From Nothing, Phoebe Gilman (**FICTION**)
7. Oy Vey! Life In A Shoe, Bonnie Grubman (**FICTION**)
8. Never Say A Mean Word Again, A Tale from Medieval Spain, Jacqueline Jules (**FICTION**)
9. The Adventures of Hershel of Ostropol, retold by Eric Kimmel (**FICTION**)
10. Good Night Wind, A Yiddish Folktale, Linda Elovitz Marshall (**FICTION**)
11. The Carob Tree, Naomi Shuman and Danny Paller (**FICTION**)
12. The Missing Ingredient – A Jewish Folktale, retold by Naomi Shulman (**FICTION**)
13. The Wonder Child & Other Jewish Folktales, Howard Schwartz (**FICTION**)
14. The Sabbath Lion, A Jewish folktale from Algeria, Howard Schwartz (**FICTION**)
15. Zlateh The Goat and other Stories, Isaac Bashevis Singer ((**FICTION**) (*Young Adult*))
16. Joseph Had A Little Overcoat, Simms Taback ((**FICTION**))
17. The Adventures of K'Ton Ton, Sadie Rose Weilerstein (**FICTION**)