

INSPIRATION

Movies, Music and Books to Start the Year Right

Music

Follow this [link](#) to a Spotify playlist of songs to help get you in the mood for Yom Kippur



Movies

Yom Kippur on the Big Screen

Movies about the power of forgiveness, acceptance, and what happens when you can let go.

The Kids Are Alright (2010)

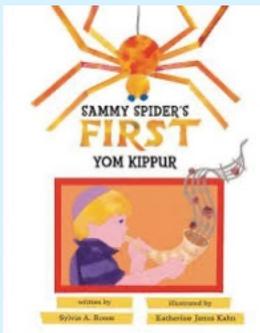
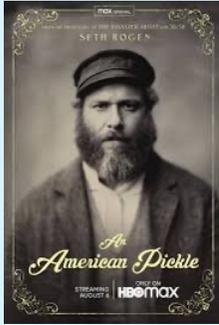
Your family members are sometimes the hardest people to forgive, no matter how unconventional. And saying sorry to your spouse? There's nothing quite so difficult and quite so important. We all screw up in relationships, and we all make mistakes in parenting. "The Kids Are Alright" is about learning to forgive the ones you love, and taking responsibility for your own actions.

Rachel Getting Married (2008)

A young woman who has been in and out of rehab for the past ten years returns home for the weekend for her sister's wedding. It's about learning how to forgive those you love and learning to forgive yourself.

Big Fish (2003)

A frustrated son tries to determine fact from fiction in his dying father's life.



An American Pickle (2020)

An immigrant worker at a pickle factory is accidentally preserved for 100 years and wakes up in modern day Brooklyn. He wrestles with both how to live in the modern world and with how to forgive the mistakes of the past and the present.

Coco (2017)

Coco emphasizes the power of reconciliation and forgiveness. A family rift keeps Miguel from following his passion for music and this makes him resentful, especially when he's invited into full participation in the family's shoe business, something for which he has no desire. During his journey in the Land of the Dead, he learns why his family has banned music and he works to make it so that family members can forgive each other, thus bringing reconciliation and peace to the Riveras, both living and deceased.

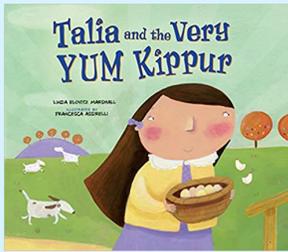
Books

For the Young: Preschool & Picture Books

Sammy Spider's First Yom Kippur

by Sylvia A. Rouss

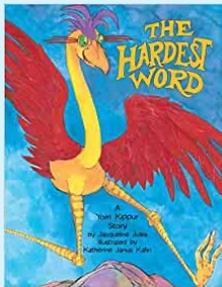
The *Sammy Spider* series is an excellent collection of picture books about the Jewish faith. In this installment, Sammy learns more about Yom Kippur with his mother. When his friend Josh gets in trouble for playing ball inside, Sammy sees what it means to apologize and why saying "I'm sorry" is important.



Talia and the Very Yum Kippur

by Linda Marshall

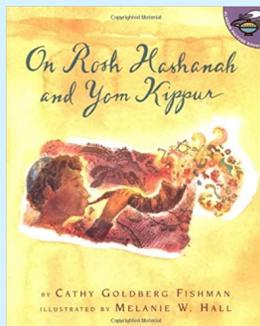
Talia is so excited about helping her grandmother prepare for Yom Kippur...but she mishears and thinks it's YUM Kippur! Funny confusions abound as Talia helps her grandmother make kugel. The *Talia* series is another great collection of books about Jewish holidays.



The Hardest Word: A Yom Kippur Story

by Jacqueline Jules

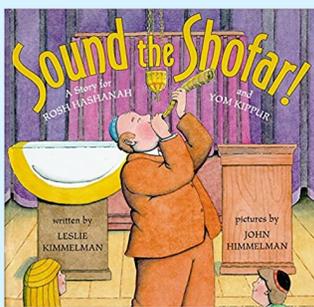
The Ziz is a big, beautiful bird, but he's also very clumsy. When he ruins a children's garden with his clumsiness, God tells him to make atonement by bringing God "the hardest word." He tries many words to no avail, but eventually he realizes what God is asking for. A lovely story about the power of an apology.



On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

by Cathy Goldberg Fishman

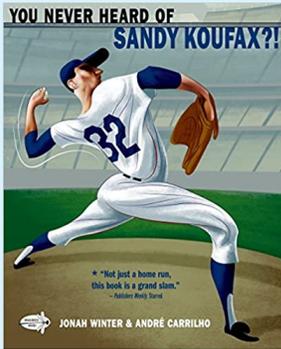
A young girl shares all the ways she can tell Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are near: cards wishing *La Shana Tova*, a special meal, and worship at the temple.



Sound the Shofar! A Story for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

by Leslie Kimmelman

This book follows a Jewish family as they celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur together. Uncle Jake sounds the shofar at the synagogue, and the family brings food items to the synagogue with them on Yom Kippur to help those

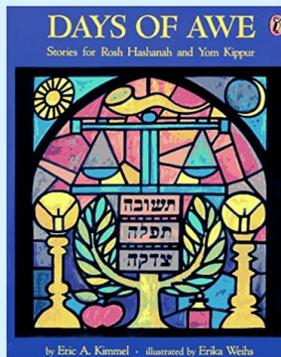


less fortunate. A lovely introduction to the rituals associated with these special days.

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?

by Jonah Winter

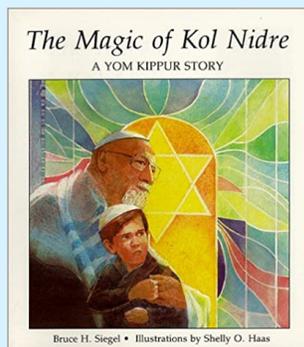
Even though Sandy Koufax was one of the best players in the game of baseball, he still faced discrimination as one of few Jewish players. When the Jewish High Holy Day of Yom Kippur coincided with the 1965 World Series, Koufax made the controversial decision not to pitch, because doing so would conflict with his religious beliefs. This excellent biography teaches much about dealing with prejudice and standing up for your beliefs in a challenging situation.



Days of Awe

by Eric Kimmel

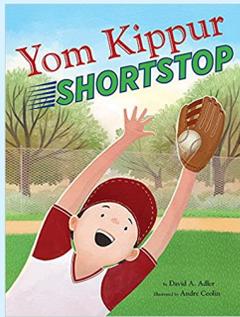
This book features three retellings of traditional Jewish folktales. The stories focus on the value of charity, forgiveness, and genuine love and repentance. Each story is accompanied by lovely illustrations by Erika Weihs. Though these are religious stories, the values they teach are important for families of any faith or families that aren't religious.



The Magic of Kol Nidre

by Bruce H. Siegel

The opening prayer of the Yom Kippur service is the Kol Nidre. It is first chanted softly, then louder, then at full voice. In this story, the narrator uses each recitation of the Kol Nidre to reflect on the prayer from different points in his life: as a boy, as a young man, and as an old man. He comes to realize that the true magic of the Kol Nidre is how it unites Jewish people from all over the world.



Yom Kippur Shortstop

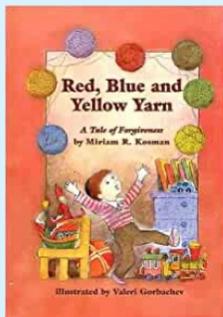
By David A. Adler

Jacob loves baseball and he's never missed a Little League game. However, this year the big championship game falls on Yom Kippur. Jacob isn't sure what he should do — does he miss the game to observe Yom Kippur? Or does he show up to the game but miss out on an important day for his faith?

Red, Blue and Yellow Yarn

By Miriam Kosman

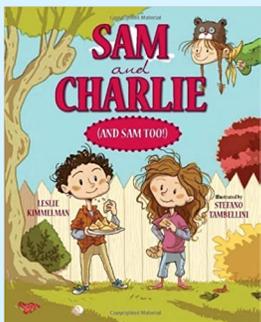
Danny's Bubby is very prim and proper, and Danny is...not. He's a rough-and-tumble little boy who has a way of getting into mischief. When Danny gets tangled up in Bubby's yarn, he's sure she will be furious with him. However, when Danny apologizes, he learns that his proper Bubby was once a curious child herself, and that she knows a thing or two about getting into trouble.

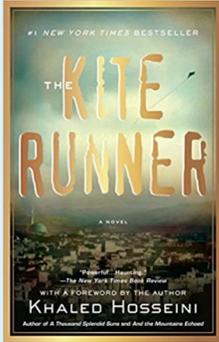


Sam and Charlie (and Sam, Too)

By Leslie Kimmelman

Sam is excited that a new kid named Charlie is moving in next door, but he's a little surprised when Charlie turns out to be a girl! Nevertheless, Sam and Charlie, and Charlie's little sister, Sam, become good friends. All three children are Jewish, and they are learning about their faith and the power of friendship together. This book is made up of several short stories, including one called "I'm Sorry Day" that is perfect for Yom Kippur.





For the Young at Heart

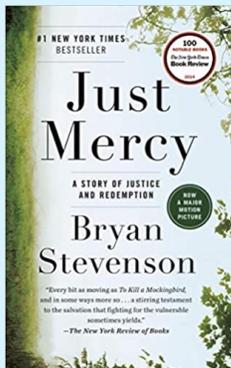
The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini, Berliani M. Nugrahani (Translator)

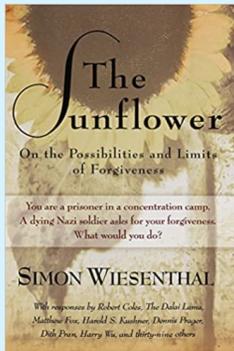
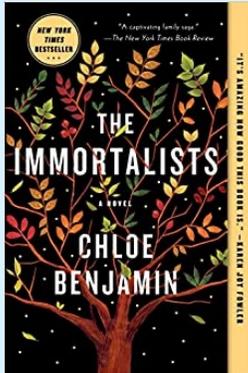
The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons — their love, their sacrifices, their lies. A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, *The Kite Runner* is an unusual and powerful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic.

Just Mercy: A story of Justice and Redemption

by Bryan Stevenson



Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship — and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. *Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.



The Immortalists

by Chloe Benjamin

If you knew the date of your death, how would you live your life?

It's 1969 in New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children — four adolescents on the cusp of self-awareness — sneak out to hear their fortunes. The prophecies inform their next five decades. Golden-boy Simon escapes to the West Coast, searching for love in '80s San Francisco; dreamy Klara becomes a Las Vegas magician, obsessed with blurring reality and fantasy; eldest son Daniel seeks security as an army doctor post-9/11; and bookish Varya throws herself into longevity research, where she tests the boundary between science and immortality. A sweeping novel of remarkable ambition and depth, *The Immortalists* probes the line between destiny and choice, reality and illusion, this world and the next. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unrelenting pull of familial bonds.

The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness

by Simon Wiesenthal

While imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, Simon Wiesenthal was taken one day from his work detail to the bedside of a dying member of the SS. Haunted by the crimes in which he had participated, the soldier wanted to confess to — and obtain absolution from — a Jew. Faced with the choice between compassion and justice, silence and truth, Wiesenthal said nothing. But even years after the war had ended, he wondered: Had he done the right thing? What would you have done in his place? In this important book, fifty-three distinguished men and women respond to Wiesenthal's questions. They are theologians, political leaders, writers, jurists, psychiatrists, human rights activists, Holocaust survivors, and victims of attempted genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, China and Tibet. Their responses, as varied as their experiences of the world, remind us that Wiesenthal's questions are not limited to events of the past.