

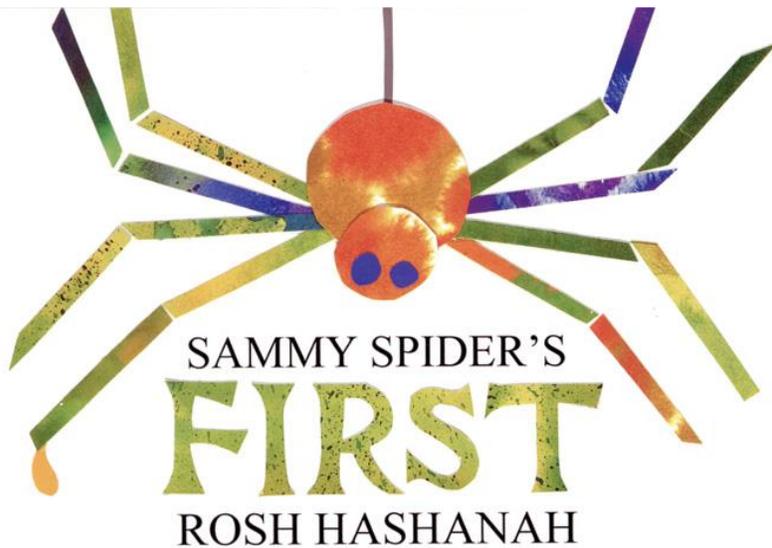
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Lesson Plan (K-1)

A Resource for Teachers

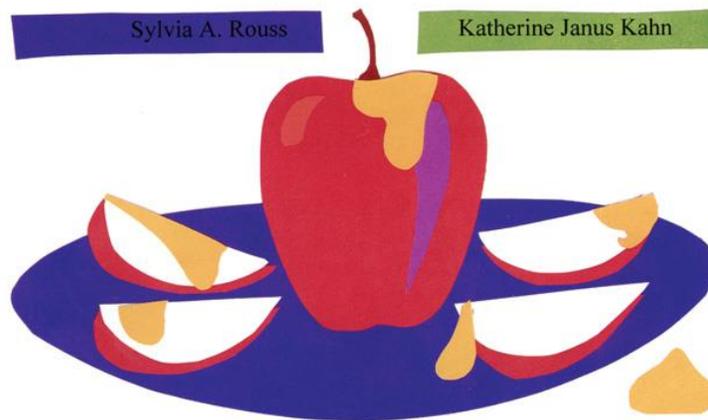


written by

Sylvia A. Rouss

illustrated by

Katherine Janus Kahn



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Lesson Plan by Melissa Moss
Jewish Literacy Project Coordinator, JCCSF
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Ages 3-8 | Grades PreK-3
To purchase the book, call 1-800-4KARBEN
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Overview

Sammy is a curious spider, who wants to join in the Shapiro's family Rosh Hashanah celebrations. Sammy's mom reminds him over and over that he is a spider, and not a human. Sammy can't resist the Rosh Hashanah honey, and has to eat his way out. He still ends up celebrating the sweetness of the New Year by eating all that honey!

About the Author

Sylvia A. Rouss is an award-winning author and early childhood educator, the creator of the popular *Sammy Spider* series which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013 with over 100,000 Sammy Spider books sold. She lives in Tarzana, California.

About the Illustrator

Katherine Janus Kahn, an illustrator, calligrapher, and sculptor, studied Fine Arts at the Bezalel School in Jerusalem and at the University of Iowa. She has illustrated many children's books including Kar-Ben's popular *Sammy Spider* series, *Ziz* series, a set of Family Services for Shabbat and the holidays, and many other award-winning story, activity and board books for young children. She lives in Wheaton, Maryland.

About Rosh Hashanah

New beginnings and sweetness are associated with Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah customs include eating apples and honey symbolizing a sweet new year, and wishing each other "shanah tovah," a good new year. In the synagogue, prayers are recited from a special High Holiday prayer book, and the shofar (ram's horn) is sounded.

Standards & Objectives

Print Concepts 1.1 – Students will be able to identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of the book.

Reading Comprehension 2.2 – Students will be able to make predictions based on the front cover picture.

Literary Response and Analysis 3.3 – Students will be able to identify characters, settings, and important events.

Lesson Plan

Preparation: you will need a copy of the book, crayons, construction paper in different colors folded in half, white paper, poster paint, paint trays, something to cover your tables with, one apple cut into halves for each student. Glue a half sheet of white paper to each of the folded construction paper cards.

Activity Steps:

1. Gather your students in a circle. Explain that it is story time. Go over agreements.
2. Show students the cover of the book. Ask the following questions: "What do you see on the cover?" "What do you think is going to happen in this story?"
3. Read the story. Stop on page 2. Explain that Rosh Hashanah is a New Year celebration. Explain that it is like a birthday party for the world. Stop on page 7. Ask if students have ever made a card before. Stop on page 9. Ask if students have ever tasted challah before. Stop on page 13. Ask if student can tell you what honey tastes like. Stop on page 17. Explain that a synagogue is where Jewish people go to be together. Explain that a Rabbi is a person who is like a teacher. Explain that a shofar is a horn that makes a loud sound. Finish the book.
4. Tell the students that you are all going to make Rosh Hashanah cards for the New Year. Put the words "Happy New Year" on the board.
5. Show them the card you made. Hand out folded construction paper and have the students write "Happy New Year" in crayon. Help them as needed. You can also skip the writing portion if you feel your students aren't ready to write. Students can also draw a picture of an apple. Show them how to make an apple print (dip apple in paint and press to paper, allow to dry). Hang finished cards around your room or give to parents.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR SAMMY SPIDER'S FIRST ROSH HASHANAH

SENSORY DEVELOPMENT:

1. Prepare sliced apples and bowls of honey. Have students taste the apples dipped in the honey. Tell them that Jewish people dip apples in honey to have a sweet New Year.
2. Prepare drawing paper and crayons. Have students draw apples or bees or honey jars.
3. Rip up various colors of construction paper. Have students form their own spider by putting the pieces of paper together with glue on another piece of construction paper.
4. Listen to the sound of the Shofar: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBS_G5fGrsl
5. Have students discuss other things that are sticky.
6. Smell-a-Thon: students can take turns sniffing and describing apple smells, honey smells, shofar smells, etc.

WRITING ACTIVITIES:

1. Students can write the vocabulary words from the story: Rabbi, Shofar, Rosh Hashanah, and Synagogue.
2. Students can practice drawing "S" with their fingers in the air, then practice writing uppercase and lowercase "S."

COOKING:

1. Creamy Honey Dip with Apples: This is a perfect recipe to make with the very youngest of cooks. Tip: A sprinkle of ground cinnamon is a nice garnish if you like. Get enough plain yogurt for your class. Add three teaspoons of honey for every half cup of yogurt. Have tart sliced apples, for serving. In a bowl, blend the yogurt with the honey. Serve as a dip with apple slices.
2. Apple Kugel: You will need ten large apples sliced, five eggs beaten, a cup and a half of sugar, 2/3 cups of oil, one and a half cups of flour, a teaspoon and a half of baking powder, and a half cup of raisins (optional). Combine all the ingredients in a baking dish and bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

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