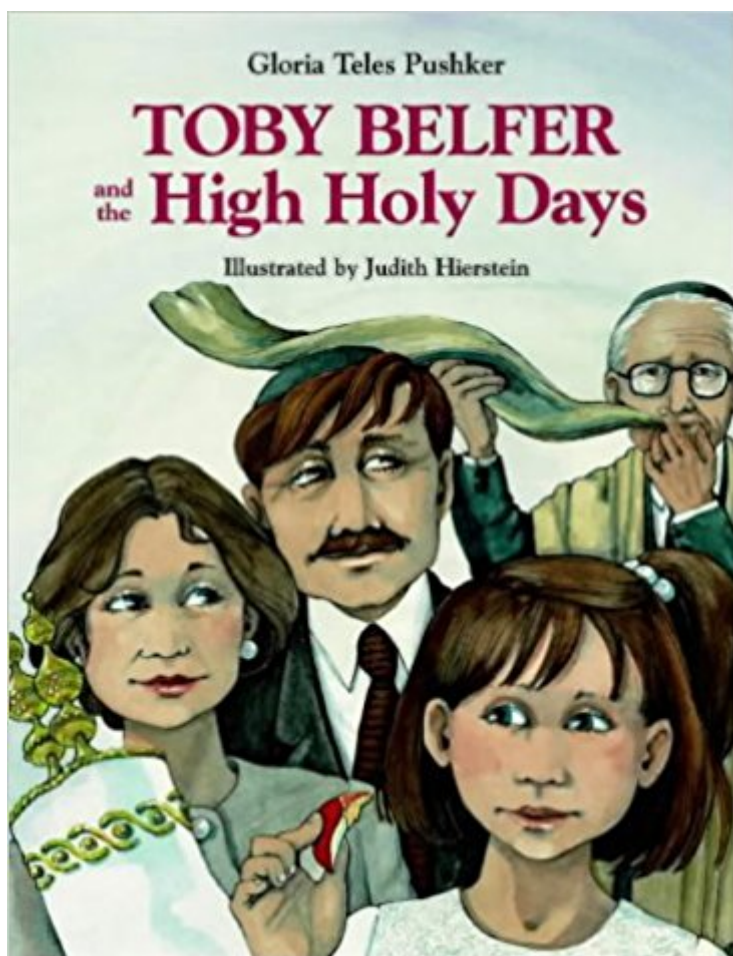


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# Toby Belfer And The High Holy Days (Toby Belfer Series)



## Synopsis

Toby helps her best friend, Donna, understand the importance of Jewish customs while celebrating the high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

## Book Information

Series: Toby Belfer Series

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Pelican Publishing (July 31, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1565547659

ISBN-13: 978-1565547650

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #886,992 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism](#) #183 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious](#) #252 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish](#)  
Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-3-When Toby asks her best friend's forgiveness for an accidental bumping and for calling her little brother "la biblioteca," an unusual so-called "insult," it provides a reason to describe to her friend how and why Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are celebrated. The dialogue is adult and stilted, and the plot is slight. The bland, full-color illustrations in which people's faces look similarly distorted do not contribute to the overall effort. Cathy Goldberg Fishman's *On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur* (Atheneum, 1997) is a better choice. Amy Kellman, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PA  
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Ages 5-8. Toby Belfer apologizes to her friend, Donna, for any wrong she may have committed against her, and when Donna wonders why, Toby explains that during the High Holy Days, Jews reflect, make amends, and think of ways to do better. Toby often sounds more like she's giving a speech than having a conversation with a friend, but the story does get across the meaning of these Jewish holidays and the requisite introspection that accompanies them. Most of the art on the

oversize pages, vaguely reminiscent of the work of Trina Schart Hyman, is suitable, although several pictures, including the one where Toby is tasting a piece of honey cake, are overdone, and a subplot about Toby's dog giving birth to puppies seems an intrusion. Still, though there are many books explaining how to celebrate the High Holy Days, this one focuses on why. For larger collections. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Swaying on her suburban porch swing, Toby asks her best friend, Donna, for forgiveness. The High Holy Days are here, it is Rosh Hashana, and Toby heard her rabbi's sermon on the topic of repentance and change. She is sorry for teasing Donna's younger brother. Toby then explains to Donna the high holy days and their meaning, the synagogue in the city, apples and honey, Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre, challah (though the illustration doesn't draw it round), and the shofar. The book ends with a honey cake recipe from Toby's late Gram'.

Toby lives up to his rabbi's wishes to help others, give charity, and apologize for any hurts caused; and as she follows his instructions and explains her Jewish heritage to her best friend Donna, she discovers new meaning in her background and life in this warm story of self-discovery and confidences sparked by a Jewish tradition.

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