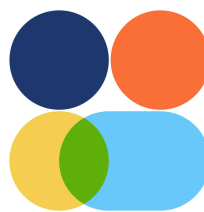


# LESSON PLAN



Theme *Tashlich* for a more inclusive New Year

Grade Level(s)

3rd- 5th Grades

Time of lesson 45 min.

### Key Ideas

- Rosh Hashanah is an opportunity to make this next year more inclusive and to ask forgiveness for our mistakes.
- Everyone makes mistakes, and everyone can ask forgiveness in their own way.
- After we ask forgiveness, we can make a plan to be more inclusive in the new year.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Identify what *tashlich* is and why it is important to say "I'm sorry."
- Identify mistakes made in the past year that might have made others feel left out or less than, and draw them or write them down to "cast them away".
- Create classroom rules that everyone will agree to follow to ensure a more inclusive and kind year.

### Materials & Resources

- Book: [New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story](#) by April Halprin Wayland
- Large poster board or classroom white board
- Washable markers, letter/number stamps, paint, crayons
- Coffee filters
- Water table/sink/bowl of water
- Ideas Visual (Handout #1)

### Warm-up and Overview

As students are walking into class, have them pick up the handout. Ask them think about *tashlich* and brainstorm what it might be if they do not already know.

### Introduction

Introduce the holiday, Rosh Hashanah, and explain the tradition of *tashlich* (Handout #1), when we symbolically cast away our sins to be ready for the new year. After introducing the word *tashlich*, use the *tashlich* discussion questions on the handout to get students thinking about what it means to "cast away" sins.

### Specific Accomodations

- allow students to answer questions in the way that is most comfortable for them
- give multiple choices for prompting answers
- allow students to answer in front of the whole group, in pairs, or by writing down their answers

## Activity

- Read the book New Year at the Pier by April Halprin Wayland. Read the physical book or use a read aloud on youtube. Throughout the book, ask students discussion questions about the story.
- Have students work by themselves or in small groups to draw pictures, write down, or think about mistakes that they made in the past year that might have hurt someone's feelings or made someone feel like they do not belong. Have students write down their mistakes with washable markers on the coffee filter.
- Bring out a water table, bowl of water, or go to the sink and fill it with water and have students dip their coffee filters in the water. Talk about how their mistakes disappear in the water which makes room for them to make plans to be more kind and inclusive in the new year.

## Specific

### Accomodations

- If students prefer to think about their mistakes instead of writing, have them write, stamp, or tap their coffee filter symbolically to count the mistakes they are thinking of (the way Issy uses his fingers in the story to represent his mistakes).

## Options for Extensions

- Show students the prayers we say during the *taschlich* ceremony
- Allow students to plan their own *tashlich* activity that they can plan to do with friends, family, or by themselves

## Options for Remediation

- have ready made coffee filters with generic mistakes a typical child might have made to allow students to use if they are having trouble coming up with their own
- reread key parts of the book with students who are having trouble understanding it

## Review and Closing

- As a class, create classroom rules for being more inclusive and kind to each other this year. Print the Ideas Visual (Handout #1) for students to choose from to glue onto the poster board.

## Specific Accomodations

- allow students to draw pictures of their rules
- write other students' ideas for them (or have them write their ideas themselves).

## Checking for Understanding

- check for understanding throughout reading the book by asking questions and giving students the opportunity to ask for clarity during the story
- note that all students have a coffee filter that they are using to dissolve in water with a mistake on it
- give all students an opportunity to contribute to the classroom rules

## HANDOUT 1

Tashlich Excerpt to Use with Students:

וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בְּמַצוּלוֹת יָם כָּל חַטֹּאתֶם

*vih-tash-leech bim'tzoolote yahm kole chah-toe-tahm*

You **will cast into** the depths of the sea all their sins.

1. What does it mean to “cast away” our sins?
2. During tashlich we throw bread into the water to *symbolize* letting go of our sins. What are other actions we can do to “cast away” our sins?
  - a. Act out/draw/or describe “casting away” sins



## Discussion Questions for “New Year at the Pier”:

1. What are the different ways that Issy and his family created their lists of mistakes they wanted to say sorry for? How would you want to create your list?
2. What mistake was Issy most ashamed of?
3. What secret of Ben’s did Issy share with others? Have you ever laughed with others at something different your friend or classmate does? How did your group organize your ideas? How did different people contribute to the outcome?
4. Who else said “sorry” in the story other than Issy? Is there anyone that does not have to say sorry on Rosh Hashanah?
5. How did Issy feel once he had said sorry for all of his mistakes? What promise did he make Ben for the coming year? What are some promises you can make your friends and classmates this year?