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Talia And The Rude Vegetables (High Holidays)



Synopsis

How can a vegetable be rude? Talia wonders, when she mis-hears her grandmother asking her to gather root vegetables for a Rosh Hashanah stew. As Talia digs in the garden, she collects the twisted, ornery carrots and parsnips the rude vegetables that she thinks her grandmother wants -- and finds a good home for the rest.

Book Information

Series: High Holidays

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

This story will make a wonderful read-aloud any time of year. Children (and adults) will be giggling over all the word play and the general silliness of vegetables that are rude, which is Talia's interpretation of her grandmother's request to gather root vegetables. They will empathize with Talia as she is trying to do the right thing and figure out what the adults are actually saying. The illustrations are clear, colorful, and amusing. I highly recommend this story either to share with an individual child or with a group.

Norm Crosby's malaprop favorite? And I love it. Talia incorrectly hears her grandmother asking her to gather ROOT vegetables for a Rosh Hashanah stew (the last page has the recipe). Talia goes off in search of RUDE vegetables in the garden. She digs, she pulls, she inspects (just as someone might do to their own behavior prior to Rosh Hashana). She collects the twisted, the mishapen, the

bumpy produce -- the ones that look angry and rude: ornery onions, garish garlic, peculiarly petulant parsnips, rude-abagas, crooked carrots and more. And when she discovers she has more than she needs, she does a mitzvah prior to the high holy day and donates the extras to another family in need. A great fun read that will reinforce a lesson.

Talia and the Rude Vegetables is a delightfully silly and fun story "rooted" in the misinterpretation of a single word that sets Talia on a course far from her grandmother's intended mark. Whether intended or not, Author Linda Elovitz Marshall masterfully "plants" a subtle message about seeking clarification in the face of uncertainty without using a garden shovel or hoe to knock us over the head with it! And Illustrator Francesca Assirelli beautifully illuminates Talia's quest to find the best vegetables to put in the stew her grandmother is making to ring in the New Year!

My daughter loved this book last year when she was 4, and I had fun reading it as well. We are looking forward to reading it again this year! The illustrations are beautiful, and the story is so sweet. This is a great book for introducing Rosh Hashanah to a child who isn't familiar with the holiday, or anyone who may be new to celebrating it.

Very cute book, has lots of big word for kids to learn. I bought for my niece because her name is Talia.

Perfect for preschool.

The first page of this book was so confusing, I thought I must have missed the beginning. Not an auspicious start. And the rest of the book follows suit.- The words "Rosh Hashana" are mentioned only once, when Talia remembers being rude to her parents and thinks she must "ask for their forgiveness." Why? No connection is made, no explanation is given.-The words "New Year" are mentioned, three times in the story, but never in the context of Rosh Hashana. What New Year? What, if anything, does it have to do with Rosh Hashana? No connection.-When Talia concludes that she's picked too many vegetables, she takes the excess to the rabbi. Why the rabbi? Why does he say that "These vegetables will help another family enjoy a sweet New Year?" Will it be a needy family? No connection. Only after the reader has traversed another three pages does the grandmother say that Talia has given him "food for the hungry." "What a mitzvah," she says. What's a mitzvah? Again, no explanation no connection.- Finally, what do root (the word Talia

misunderstood as "rude") vegetables - other than carrots - have to do with Rosh Hashana? No connection. The author makes a lame attempt at tying her story to Rosh Hashana by writing in an afterward that , over thirty years ago, she found a root vegetable recipe that an Albany newspaper alleged was for Rosh Hashana. She "believes" that it was of Sephardic origin but, since her family enjoyed it and, relying on her own "ingenuity, " it has continued to be an enjoyable dish for Rosh Hashana, she has remarkably transformed her own preference into a Rosh Hashana experience. It seems that her real ingenuity lay in her getting a poorly conceived story published.

I am a librarian at a synagogue and I regularly read holiday stories to the students. This one, unfortunately, was a real dud: it made so little sense to the children, the central pun wasn't funny (most children don't know what a ROOT vegetable is, and by the time that is explained the humor has evaporated), and it added nothing to anyone's understanding or appreciation of the holiday. I liked the illustrations, but I won't be reading this book again.

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