



Rosh Hashanah

# Lesson Plans

*3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*Recommended for 3rd-5th Grade*

## OPTION 1: TASHLICH FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE NEW YEAR

### Big Ideas

- Rosh Hashanah is an opportunity to make this year more inclusive and 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.

### Objectives

- 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, kind year.

### Materials

- 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/or bowl of water
- Ideas Visuals (Handout #1)

### Accessibility Considerations

If the group lesson is taking place on a carpet or in some form of “circle time” consider setting up your space with the following flexible seating options:



- Cube chair
- Balance ball
- Carpet dot
- Bean bag chair
- Pillow for sitting on
- Laying down
- Standing up

Allow for wait time (5 seconds) before choosing a student to answer a question

Give students a variety of ways to answer questions (i.e. some students will come up with examples on their own, allow others to choose from a few choices with visuals)

## Activity

1. 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 below to get students thinking about what it means to “cast away” sins.
2. 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.
3. 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. If they choose to write down their mistakes, they should do so with washable markers on the coffee filter. If they choose to think about them, 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).
4. 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.
5. As a class, create classroom rules for being more inclusive and kind to each other this year. Print the Ideas Visuals (Handout #1) examples for students to choose from to glue onto the poster board, allow other students to draw pictures of their rules, and write other student’s ideas out for them (or have them write their ideas themselves).

## 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?



## HANDOUT 1

Tashlich Excerpt to Use with Students:

וְתִשְׁלֵךְ בְּמַצּוּלוֹת יָם כָּל חַטָּאתָם

*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



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*Recommended for 3rd-5th Grade*

## OPTION 2: THE NEW YEAR IS A TIME TO USE YOUR VOICE

### Big Ideas

- *Hayom harat olam* (Today is the world's birthday).
- *Rosh Hashanah* provides time to reflect and think about setting goals for the upcoming year.
- The voice is a powerful tool both literally (sounds controlled by air) and can be used as a metaphor (means of self-expression).

### Objectives

- To help students understand that every voice matters and that the new year can be a time to think about making positive changes.



- Use of music as a means to introduce a concept”.
- Help students understand that every person’s voice is powerful and can make a difference

## Materials

- Audio visual set up to play Maccabeats video (Maccabeats-This is the New Year <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn9QgBNgl1w>)
- Lyrics Handout #1
- Group Roles Handout #2
- Writing utensils
- Exit Slip Handout #3

## Accessibility Considerations

- Print out the lyrics to the song in 18 font or larger (large fonts are generally easier to read for those with visual impairments)
- Use captions when showing video
- Send out lyrics and link to video ahead of time for those that might benefit from previewing the lesson
- Using music as part of the lesson can be calming, evoke joy and improve engagement
- Pay attention to how loud the music is, where individuals are seated to be able to comfortably hear and see the video
- Carefully consider student groupings by looking at student strengths and group dynamics

## Activities

1. Introduce what a cappella band is. Explain that the term a cappella means “singing without instrumental accompaniment”; a cappella music uses only the human voice to produce the sounds they sing. This type of singing started back when barbershop music was popular.
2. Have entire group view the Maccabeats music video.
3. Introduce and assign groups and roles.
4. Give each student a copy of the lyrics to the song and in small groups have them look at the lyrics together, discuss, and talk about why they think you decided to show this video.
5. Use a visual timer to show how long you will be having the students in a group.
6. Give a 2 minute warning before bringing the group back together.
7. As a large group discuss some of the findings of the groups. Reiterate the big ideas and objectives of the lesson to the group.
8. Have the students fill out the “exit slip” to demonstrate understanding of the lesson. It will also give students an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned.



## **Assessment**

- Students will have an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned while providing the teacher with an informal measure of how well the students understood the topic. (Handout #3).





## Lyrics: HANDOUT #1

# This is the New Year

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn9QgBNgl1w>

Another year, you made a promise  
Another chance to turn it all around  
And do not save this for tomorrow  
Embrace the past and you can live for now

And I will give the world to you

Speak louder than the words before you  
And give them meaning no one else has found  
The role we play is so important  
And joined as one our voices can't be drowned

And I will give the world to you

Pray for the life you've always wanted  
Be not afraid of who you really are  
'Cause in the end, we have each other  
And that's at least one thing worth living for

And I would give the world to you

All of our eyes raised up together  
Millions of voices shouting out, they call

Let's tear the walls down that divide us  
and build a house that is strong enough for all  
Hayom harat olam



There's so much to be done

Cause I would give the the world

That's why he gave the world  
and still he gives the world to you

This is the new year

a new beginning

let's make a promise

we'll be the brightest

We are the voices

this is the new year

We are the voices

This is the new year



## **Group Roles: HANDOUT 2**

**Facilitator:** Person who guides the group's discussion. They prompt quieter team members and ask questions to help improve the group discussion.

**Monitor:** This person keeps account of objects for the team. Including making sure that all members have all materials needed for the group activity.

**Notetaker:** Will take notes and be accountable for sharing the notes to the larger group after the meeting.

**Time Keeper:** This person will make sure that everyone has enough time to complete the activity. They may need to encourage the group to get started instead of socializing at the start

## **EXIT SLIP: HANDOUT #3**



**What can I use my voice to convey this year?**

Written and picture examples of classroom rules to give students as choices during group discussion about classroom rules:



Invite all classmates to play/participate in an activity



Hold the door open for people



Comfort others when they are sad