

## Rosh Hashanah Lesson Plan

**Community, Connection, and Caring for the World**

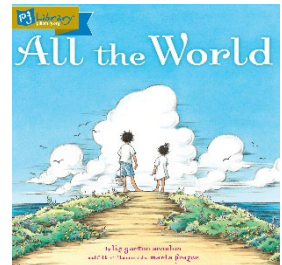
**Grade:** PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Using PJ Library Book:** *All the World* by Liz Garton Scanlon



### Learning Objectives:

- Students will explore Jewish values of community (*kehilla*), caring for the earth (*shmirat ha'adamah*), and kindness (*chesed*).
- Students will connect the story's message to Rosh Hashanah as a time for reflection, renewal, and repairing relationships (*teshuvah*).
- Students will identify ways they can contribute to making the world a better place in the new year.



### Structure / Activity:

#### 1. Welcome / Introduction (5 minutes)

- Gather students on the rug.
- Teacher says: “As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, we think about how we can do better and help make the world a kinder place. Today we are going to read a story that shows how everything in the world is connected — people, nature, and the choices we make.”

#### 2. Read-Aloud (10 minutes)

- Read *All the World* aloud, showing pictures slowly and pointing out details.
- Pause occasionally to ask questions: “What do you see in this picture? How do you think the characters are feeling? How do you think this part connects to the world we live in?”

#### 3. Discussion (10 minutes)

- Ask guiding questions:
  - What do you think the book means by ‘All the World’?
  - How are people connected to nature?
  - How are we connected to each other in our classroom and community?
  - What are some ways we can make the world a kinder and better place in the new year?

- Link to Jewish values: *Kehilla* (community), *Shmirat Ha'adamah* (caring for the earth), *Chesed* (kindness), and *Teshuvah* (repairing relationships and trying again).

#### 4. **Activity: All the World New Year Mural (15 minutes)**

- Provide students with a large sheet of butcher paper divided into sections: people, nature, and community.
- Each student draws or writes one way they can care for the world, be kind to others, or try something new this Rosh Hashanah (examples: saying sorry, sharing toys, picking up trash, helping a friend, planting flowers).
- Teacher helps scribe for students who need support.

#### 5. **Sharing & Reflection (5–10 minutes)**

- Gather as a class to look at the mural.
- Invite a few students to share what they added.
- Teacher concludes: “Just like in our book, each of us is part of all the world. Rosh Hashanah reminds us that the new year is a chance to take care of each other, the earth, and ourselves so we can make the world a better place.”

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#### **Materials Needed:**

- Copy of *All the World* (PJ Library edition)
- Large sheet of butcher paper or poster board
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Stickers or collage materials (optional)

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#### **Accommodations / Modifications:** *To help support all learners*

- Allow students to verbalize their ideas while teacher scribes.
  - Provide adaptive art materials (thicker crayons, textured stickers).
  - Offer breaks and fidget items as needed.
  - Give transition warnings (5, 3, 1 minute).
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