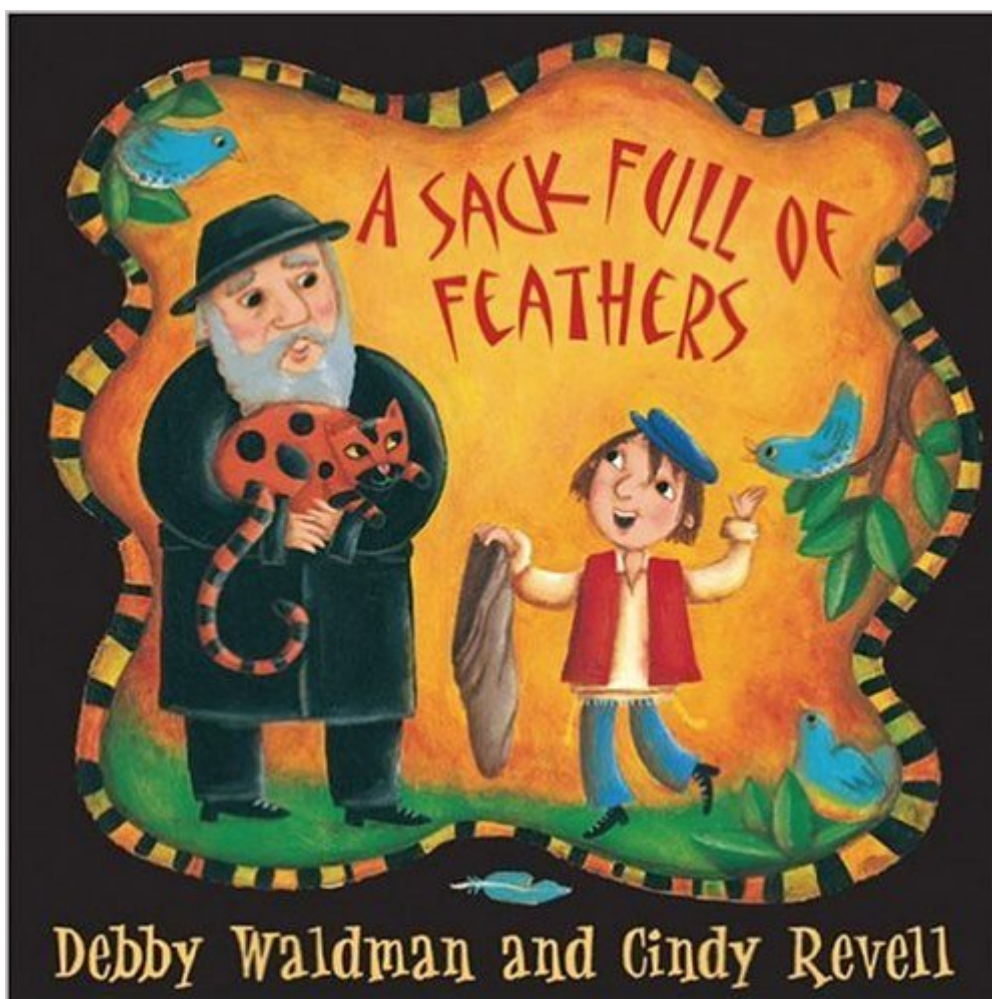


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A Sack Full Of Feathers



Synopsis

Gossip spreads like feathers in the wind. (20070301)

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Orca Book Publishers (September 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 155143332X

ISBN-13: 978-1551433325

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.3 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,952,087 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #687 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish](#) #1756 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #2991 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

The traditional folktale instructing about the harm of gossip reappears once more in a new, charming picture book. The familiar lesson that tales once told are gone with the wind has a fresh twist: a bad-boy protagonist the age of targeted readers. Yankel takes pride in repeating "other people's stories". He easily finds many of these, as his father owns the village store where shtetl denizens gather to swap news. In his eagerness to repeat to his friends what he hears, Yankel often leaves the store before the end of the story, and, thus, relays false news. The kind, old rabbi hears and knows and devises the plan to teach Yankel the harm of lashon ha-ra. The rabbi hands the boy a sack full of feathers and asks him to put one on every doorstep. Yankel finishes the tiring task only to be told to go collect them all. Naturally, the child fails. A tired, hungry, wet, scratched, unhappy boy confesses the impossibility of the job. The rabbi teaches the lesson and encourages Yankel to tell stories only about himself. The story and the moral arrive in a wonderfully illustrated book. The shtetl is wildly colorful, but seems to be an up-scale village and therefore, the cleanliness, unpatched clothes and shopping indicate an economy worthy of the color. Scenes and attitudes are a bit stereotypical, but we are introducing a different world to modern children and basics are

important. The text is banded in a striking scarf-like frame. The art warmly underlines the plot, stumbling only with ubiquitous spotted cats and a tablecloth from a restaurant in your closest little Italy, nowhere near the Pale of Settlement. It is refreshing to have the moral arrive through a youngster instead of the usual middle-aged sharpest tongue in the village. For ages 6 -9. Reviewed by Ellen G. Cole

Yankel Liebovich has a very bad habit. Since his father owns the village store in Olkinik, he hears all kinds of stories every day. Unfortunately, Yankel doesn't usually hang around to hear the end of the tale. No, what Yankel hears are things that he knows the other school children will find funny, interesting, or horrifying--and those are the stories that Yankel tells daily. He likes to brag about the fight between two women who were arguing over a piece of fabric at the store. "She's mean!" the other children comment. He likes to tell about how the baker used salt instead of sugar in his baked goods. "I'll never eat there again!" the other children say. For Yankel, finding a good story to share is more important than anything else; more important, perhaps, than the truth. When the Rabbi sends Yankel on a mission to leave a feather at every home in the village, he does so without many questions. But when the Rabbi sends him back to those same homes, again, to retrieve that same feather, Yankel realizes the impossibility of his task. So, too, is it impossible to take back the stories that he likes to spread around Olkinik. This is a great folktale that tells a very important lesson, although it might be one that is hard for younger children to understand at first. Once they truly grasp what gossip is, though, and how it can harm other people, they will learn, just like Yankel, that the only stories you should tell are your own. Reviewed by: Jennifer Wardrip, aka "The Genius"

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