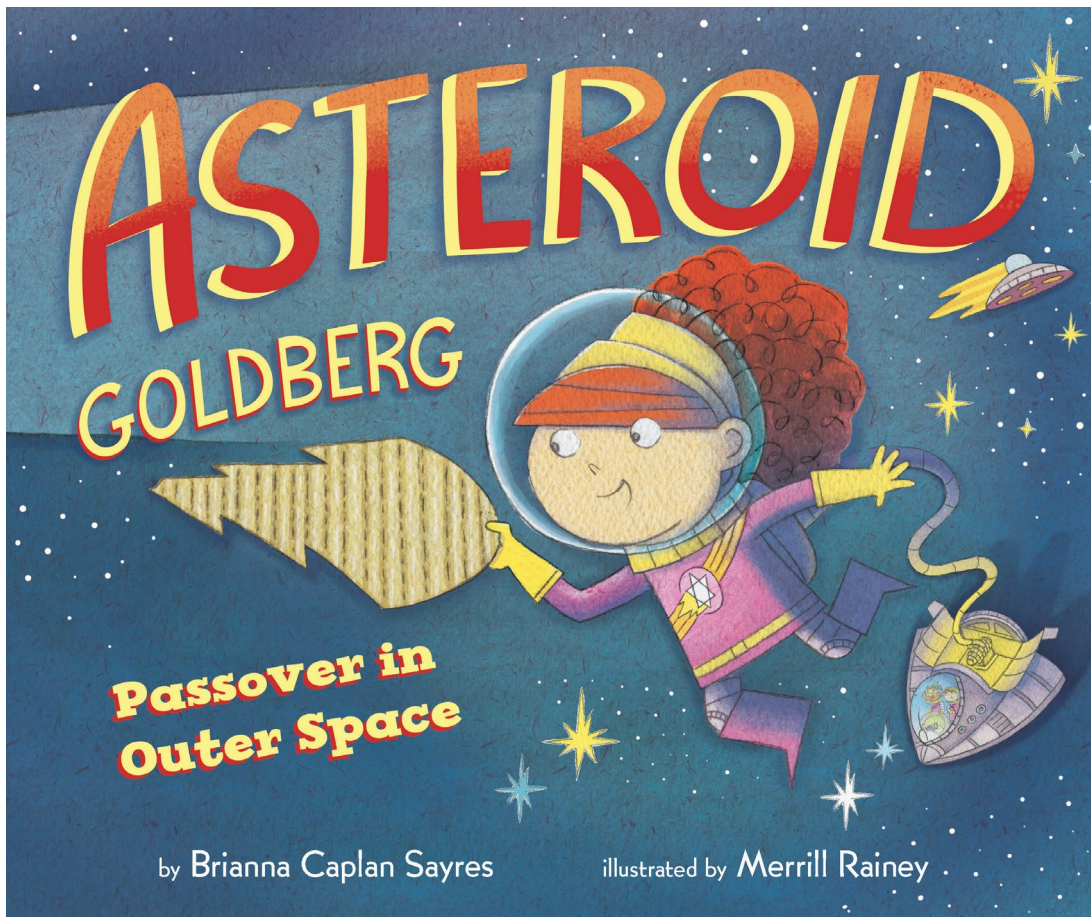


A Teacher's Guide for
**ASTEROID GOLDBERG:
PASSOVER IN OUTER SPACE**

written by Brianna Caplan Sayres
illustrated by Merrill Rainey



Asteroid Goldberg: Passover in Outer Space Text © Brianna Caplan Sayres 2020;
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Praise for *Asteroid Goldberg: Passover in Outer Space*

“There are a lot of Passover picture books, but this one definitely rises to the top.” –Sydney Taylor Shmooze

Story Summary

When Asteroid Goldberg and her parents get stuck in outer space for Passover, Asteroid plans a Passover seder that is truly out-of-this world.

The mighty and creative young Jewish girl, uses Jupiter's moons for her matzoh balls, the big dipper for her ladle and gets her maror (bitter herbs / horseradish) from Jupiter's red spot.

She then invites family from around the solar system, and they have a Passover seder like no one has ever seen (including hiding the Afikoman in Robot Dog's head!).

When most of the traditional seder rituals have been completed, Mission Control invites the family to land... but no one wants to go.

They then end with a twist on the traditional Passover conclusion, "Next Year in Jerusalem". Instead, Asteroid and her family proclaim,

"Next Year in Outer Space!"



About the Author



Brianna Caplan Sayres would love to spend Passover in outer space, but for now, she enjoys celebrating seder with her two future astronauts in her hometown, Seattle, Washington. Brianna is the author of picture books including the bestselling *Where Do Diggers Sleep at Night?* series illustrated by Christian Slade and *Night Night, Curiosity* illustrated by Ryan O'Rourke.

About the Illustrator



Growing up, Merrill Rainey spent most of his Saturday afternoons watching monster movies, drawing superheroes and going on imaginary adventures with his siblings. Today, he is a cowboy-boot-wearing, award-winning illustrator, designer, and paper engineer. Merrill likes to experiment with art tools and uses markers, cut paper, and water-soluble graphite to create his illustrations. Merrill is the creator of *Color-Cut-Create!* a Paper Toy Activity Book. He lives in the historic town of Maumee, Ohio with his editor (his wife), subject matter experts (his kids), and very opinionated coworkers (two pups, two goldfish, and some crabby hermit crabs).

Prior to Reading (help to activate students' prior knowledge):

Ask your students what they like to do for Passover
Compile a class list of favorite Passover traditions.

Ask your students what they know about outer space.
Compile a class list, "What We Know About Space".

Discuss / Make **predictions**:

How might we celebrate Passover in Outer Space?



Possible Post-Reading Activities:

ART:

Draw a picture of yourself (or you and your family) celebrating Passover in Outer Space

- *What Passover tradition will you be doing?
- *How will that tradition be different in outer space?



RESEARCH:

In “Asteroid Goldberg: Passover in Outer Space”, the author chose to give a very fanciful answer to what Passover in outer space might be like. But your students might wonder what it really might really like in space.

Ask your students how they could research this. If time permits, students could create their own class book, “*If We **Really** Spent Passover in Space!*”.

Also, be sure to let your students know that Intergalactic Afikoman will be publishing our own upcoming nonfiction book, “Shabbat on Mars,” written by Jeff Ward, a real-life rocket scientist!

MATH:

Ask students to tell the class their favorite part of space.
Create a graph of the results.

Ask students to tell the class their favorite part of Passover.
Create a graph of the results.

- *Which part of space do the most students like?
- *Which part of Passover do the most students like?
- *Did the parts of Passover match their favorite stanzas / illustrations in the book? Were they different?



DRAMATIC PLAY:

Younger children may enjoy hosting taking their own “rocket rides”. You could arrange your class chairs as a rocket ship and “blast off” to outer space where you could imagine celebrating your very own seder in space. What will your seder look like without Earth’s gravity. (Brianna will do this as part of an author visit if you schedule her “Intergalactic Passover Voyage”.)

HISTORY:

Jews in space is a super-interesting history topic to explore. Some exciting people to explore with your class:

Garrett Reisman – first Jewish astronaut to spend Passover in space

Jessica Meir -- (featured in Intergalactic Afikoman’s upcoming book, “She’s a Mensch”)- part of first all female space walk, tweeted Happy Hanukkah from space

Judith Resnik -- first Jewish-American in space and first Jewish woman in space. (Died in the Challenger disaster.)

Jeffrey Hoffman – first Jewish-American male astronaut, brought the first Torah to space

Ilan Ramon- first Israeli astronaut – first astronaut to request kosher food on a space flight. (Died in the Columbia disaster.)

William Shantner (of Star Trek)- oldest person to fly in space at the age of 90

