



EVEN HIGHER

Written by Eric Kimmel

Illustrated by Jill Weber

In this old-world tale, a skeptical visitor to a village determines where the rabbi goes when he disappears each year just prior to Rosh Hashanah.

ROSH HASHANAH

The holiday of Rosh Hashanah, literally “Head of the Year,” is celebrated for the first two days of the Jewish month of Tishrei. (Some observe a one-day New Year.) Many Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah by attending worship services and sharing festive meals with family and friends. Rosh Hashanah offers us a chance to reflect on the past year as well as to hope and plan for the year to come. The holiday also gives us the opportunity to consider who we have been and who we want to be.

What an appealing mystery this story provides! While reading the first section of the book, reflect on where the rabbi might go. After reading the book in its entirety, together you might consider:

- Is it significant that the rabbi visits this particular woman? Who might she represent?
- Why does the rabbi disguise himself, pretending to be someone else to the woman he befriends?
- What did the Litvak – and you! – learn from the rabbi’s annual secret mission?

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

A Jewish precept states: “*Kol Yisrael aravim zeh l’zeh.*” All Jews are responsible for each other. What many consider a moral obligation for each Jew to care for every other is, by extension, a duty we bear to all people. By acting in accordance with this ideal we have an opportunity of bringing about *tikkun olam* (the repair of the world).

How can your family brighten the lives of lonely relatives or assist neighbors who need help? Create a list of people who need what you can offer – not only during holiday times but throughout the year. Put intention into practice! Make it a regular part of your family life to make a difference in the world.