The Committee Recommends

A presentation by the 2020 Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

Committee Members
- Marjorie Ingall
- Sylvie Shaffer
- Shoshana Flax
- Rivka Yerushalmi
- Rena Citrin
- Rebecca Levitan - Chair

Sylvie Shaffer
To Night Owl
From Dogfish
By Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer
Published by Penguin Books USA

Once Upon an Apple Cake: A Rosh Hashanah Story
By Elana Rubinstein, Illustrated by Jennifer Naalchigar
Published by Apples and Honey Press
I was doing the laundry, and Tia was in the room next door. I heard her talking when I entered the room. She said, “I think it’s time to start a new day.”

Tia took her usual spot on the couch. She looked up at me and smiled. “Shoshana, how have you been?”

“I’ve been busy with work,” I replied. “How about you?”

“I’ve been thinking about quitting my job,” Tia said. “I just don’t feel fulfilled.”

“I can understand that,” I said. “But what do you want to do instead?”

“I don’t know,” Tia replied. “I’ve been thinking about starting my own business.”

“That’s a great idea,” I said. “But do you have the resources to do it?”

“I don’t know,” Tia said. “But I’m willing to take the chance.”

“I support you,” I said. “But remember, it’s not easy.”


“Keep me posted,” I said. “I’m excited to see what you’ll do.”

“I will,” Tia replied. “Thank you.”

As I left the room, I noticed Tia looking at her phone. She was texting someone.

“I wonder what she’s up to,” I thought to myself. “She always seems so busy.”

I returned to my work and tried to focus on my tasks. But my mind kept wandering back to Tia and her plans. I knew that Tia was a talented and dedicated person. I was confident that she would succeed in whatever she set her mind to.
Right Side Up: Adventures in Chelm
By Eric Kimmel,
Illustrated by Steven Brown,
Published by Apples and Honey Press

Francesco Tirelli's Ice Cream Shop
By Tamar Meir,
Translated by Noga Applebaum,
Illustrated by Yael Albert,
Published by Kar-Ben Publishing
Kol HaKavod: Way to go!

By Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh, Illustrated by Sarah-Jayne Mercer, Published by Kar-Ben Publishing
Casual Jewish Representation

Kissing Ezra Holtz (And Other Things I Did for Science)
By Brianna R. Shrum,
Published by Sky Pony Press