

ISRAEL AT WAR

Oct 2023 | Tishrei 5734

Dear Educator:

In light of the war in Israel, we want to provide you with several resources to use with your students. Our goal is, first and foremost, to offer you accurate and, as much as is possible, up-to-date material. We hope these materials will allow your students the ability to assimilate the horrible developments from Israel.



Important to emphasize:

Attached please find a [presentation](#) with basic information about the Gaza region and the ongoing conflict. We will update the PP as information comes to light.

We suggest that you first take the time to explain what is happening to your students. Information provides a person with a sense of control during uncertain times. However, not all information will be relevant to everyone, and, at times, too much information can be emotionally detrimental. The teacher is in the best position to assess what should be shared based on the age of the students, maturity, and other considerations. Giving students enough information so they have understanding while avoiding information that maybe trauma inducing should be the goal.

Controlled Media Intake:

In the digital age, social media can make us extremely exposed to harmful content. Being aware of how we consume media is part of our personal, parental and educational responsibility.

We recommend that you, students, teaching staff and all members of the community avoid watching the videos sent from the war zone. They can be traumatising, and do not help give solace or a sense of security. We know it's hard, but also imperative for your well being. Attached please find an [informational pamphlet for parents and educators](#).



Ministry for Diaspora
Affairs and Combating
Antisemitism

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Suggested Short Activities:

Full Class Dialogue.

[Appropriate for All Ages]

Facilitate Discussion About the Events

The discussion can be organized along the following three stages:

- "A Question I Have Been Thinking About"
- "A Thought I Want to Share"
- "Words of Hope" - The teacher records the words on the white board offered by students.

Letters to IDF Soldiers

[Appropriate for Elementary and Middle School Students]

In preparation, ask students to:

- Consider what is important to say to a soldier responsible for protecting the State of Israel?
- What might be encouraging to a soldier on a military mission?
- What words might strengthen a soldier?

You can send the letters to this email:

unitedisrael@herzog.ac.il

And we will transfer them to the soldiers.

Draw a Picture for an IDF Soldier

[Appropriate for Early Childhood and Elementary School Students]

You can send the pictures to this email:

unitedisrael@herzog.ac.il

And we will transfer them to the soldiers.



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I s r a e l a t w a r

Letters to Residents who live near the Gaza Strip

[Appropriate for Elementary and Middle School Students]

You can send the letters to this email:

unitedisrael@herzog.ac.il

And we will transfer them to the Residents who live near the Gaza Strip.

Expressions of Peace

[Appropriate for Elementary and Middle School Students]

1. Think of words related to peace
2. Think of what you would want to wish for the world, the Jewish people, the State of Israel, the Jewish population in the south (Gaza Envelope), IDF soldiers, Israeli students and their families living in Israel.
3. Compose a wish or prayer expressing your thoughts and desires.
4. Post the wishes and prayers on a bulletin board or on an electronic platform.

Social Network

[Appropriate for Elementary and Middle School Students]

1. Consider what you would want to say to an Israeli or IDF soldier during this time?
2. Commit your ideas to writing (consider writing in Hebrew if you can). Write it on a poster.
3. Take a picture with you holding your poster (and an Israeli flag) and send it.

Discussion on Mutual Responsibility

[Appropriate for Middle School and High School Student]

During these days of difficulty and challenge, it is important that we engage in conversation about the values of unity and mutual responsibility that express themselves in Israel and around the world. These discussions should reflect on ways that we can remind ourselves that we are a strong people and state, with a strong military, all dedicated to the good of the Jewish people.



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I s r a e l a t w a r

Consider for Discussion:

"All Jews are responsible for one another" כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה

Explain the significance of the expression "All Jews are responsible for one another." The source of this statement is said in the Talmud in context of one Jew being concerned over the mitzva observance of his fellow Jew (Sanhedrin 27b). Today, however, we use this expression in the broader sense of one Jew being concerned over the wellbeing of his fellow Jew.

Consider - Under what life circumstances do you apply this expression. Consider this from the perspectives of the family, community, and society.

Consider the current situation we are now in. What ideas do you have on how one could be helpful to another during these times?

Construct a class or school list with these collected ideas and post them in a public space.



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