

Text for Older Children

The poem below was written by a child named Aviva Mendelsohn in honor of Israel turning 60. This year Israel turns 69, but the words in Aviva's poem are still meaningful and teach us why Israel is so important for us even today.

THE SECRET HEART OF EVERY JEW

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| She walked down the street With fear in her eyes, What was in her heart She would have to disguise. If she let someone knew How often she wept, They would find out The secret she's kept. She was a Jew Deep down inside, | But that secret She had to hide. In 1948 She was finally free, To live her own life In her own country. The pain she had felt Will not fade away, Forever in her heart Her memories will stay. |
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1. Why would people feel that they would have to hide their Judaism? How do you think it would feel to pretend to be someone you are not?
2. Why did things change for the girl in the poem in 1948? What do you think it felt like for the girl in the poem to finally be able to share who she really was? (Israel was founded in 1948).
3. Have you ever been to Israel?
 1. If so, how did it feel to be in a country of so many Jewish people? What is a special memory from your trip?
 2. If not, what do you think it would feel like to be in a country of so many Jewish people? What is something you would like to see or do in Israel?