

Dreaming with Yaakov Unit Overview – חֲלֻמֵי עִם יַעֲקֹב

Connections: Hebrew, Humash, Drama, Art History, Geography, Archeology, Technology, Social Studies, Language Arts, Visual Art

Dreaming with Yaakov is a unit of study designed for 5th graders at Columbus Jewish Day School. It is adaptable for students ages 12 through adult. The unit is divided into two parts. Part one consists of Torah study, and when appropriate is taught in Hebrew. Although this curriculum can stand alone, it can be supported by select excerpts from the Tal Am curriculum.

16 Curricular Goals

Unit goals one through 9 are comprised of 12 (30 -60 minute) lessons that familiarize students with the various layers of meaning to be gained by a multifaceted study of Yaakov's Dream. **The ultimate goal of which is to prepare students to see themselves as participants in the Jewish tradition of meaning making.**

Unit goals 10 through 16 are comprised of 5 lessons that guide students to uncover meaning in visual midrashim from art historical primary sources. Students are then encouraged to bring all of their knowledge from the entire unit of study (covered by goals 1-14) to the art studio in order to fully develop their own visual midrashim to add to the canon.

Unit Goals:

1. To review Yaakov's background to set the stage for Torah study
2. To study Torah text - Beresheet 28, 10-22 * בראשית כח י-כב *
3. To identify key Hebrew words, verbs, and themes
4. To question narrative
5. To interpret the narrative by use of bibliodrama
6. To create a journal entry in character describing what happened and interpreting what Yaakov's thoughts and feelings might have been as he made his way thru the story
7. To compare and contrast Yaakov's experience before and after the dream.

8. To analyze traditional *midrashim*
9. To use present day video footage to search the architectural remnants and geographical site for additional meaning
10. To survey, describe, question and analyze visual midrashim
11. To connect questions posed in art historical visual *midrashim* to Torah text
12. To develop personal questions connected to Yaakov's dream
13. To use a heart map (graphic organizer) to plan visual midrash
14. To choose medium to create an artwork to best communicate meaning
15. To create individual visual midrashim to add to the cannon of interpretation
16. To compose a descriptive narrative to display along with visual midrash

Table of Contents of Handouts

(Handouts are linked to numbered goals above. E.G. HO 2/3 G is a handout related to goals #2 and #3 and is the 7th handout in the series)

HO 1: Review of Toldot

HO 2/3 a: VaYetze Yaakov

HO 2/3 b: Angels on a Ladder

HO 2/3 c: God's Promise to Yaakov

HO 2/3 d: Ma Zeh Neder? What is a Vow?

HO 2/3 e: Map Skills

HO 2/3 f: Compass

HO 2/3 g: Translation Exercise

HO 4a: Yaakov's Descendants Today

HO 4b: Are Yaakov's Descendants a Blessing to the World?

HO 5: Lesson prompt – Meaning of Symbolism in Yaakov's Dream

HO 6a: Yaakov on his way from Haran (Diary Lesson Prompts and examples)

HO 6b: Yaakov's Dream Diary lesson prompt

HO 6c: Diary lesson prompt with example of student work

HO 7a: Canaan News

HO 7b: Yaakov's Dream as a Turning Point

HO 8: See HO 2/3 B

HO 9a: Video response sheet titled, Can we identify the site of Yaakov's dream today?

HO 9a1: Video link: The Site of Jacob's Dream Discovered OR Bet El The Dream Comes True

HO 9b: Beit El Today

HO 10a: Visual Midrash survey forms, print one per image used

HO 10b: Visual Midrash survey – samples of responses

HO 11a: Lesson Guide for Visual Midrash

HO 11b: Visual Midrash example

HO 12: Powerpoint presentation, Yaakov's Dream In Art (select images to use in exhibit and print) See Lesson Guide HO 11a for instructions

HO 13: Heart Map Sample

HO 14/15 a: My Own Visual Midrash- Question and Quote for Heart Map

HO 14/15 b: My Own Visual Midrash from Text to Artwork

HO 16a: Visual Midrash – Yaakov's Dream- Descriptive Narrative

HO 16b: Visual Midrash – Yaakov's Dream- Samples of Descriptive Narrative