

Dreaming with Yaakov – חֲלֻמֵי יַעֲקֹב – Lesson Guide for Visual Midrash

After students have completed Torah and Midrash explorations and have viewed video footage to see what the site of the dream looks like today, the next steps in the unit involve student development of their own visual midrash. What follows is a guide to using the visual midrash portion of the handouts (10 through 16) to guide your students to developing their own visual midrashim.

Develop the art exhibit

- Review the Powerpoint Yaakov's Dream in Art.
- Select the number of images to be used in the exhibit.
- Print the images (either cover or crop out the description of the image included on the slide. We want the students to use their own eyes and minds to uncover the narrative.) The artist, medium, date and title can remain with the image.
- Post the images in a hallway (or other space) far enough away from each other so that students can stand in front of each image without crowding other viewers.
- Number the images
- Print one HO 10 a (Visual Midrash survey form) for each image used in exhibit
- Attach each form to a clipboard with pencil, place them next to the image and number them to correspond to the numbers you gave to the images
- Brainstorm Yaakov's dream with students
- Students will be visiting each art work and listing any questions they have about what they see in the image on the survey form (HO 10 a)
- Give students 2 to 3 minutes to review the image
- Allow students to survey at least 4 images each (set 3 minute timer and instruct students to leave clipboards with the images and switch when the timer sounds
- Invite students to select their favorite image or images and discuss what they liked and wondered about it with a peer

- Invite students to link the images they found in the art to another part of their study thus far (The text, the video footage of the present day site, a midrash etc.)

Develop the Visual Midrash

Brainstorm with students to create an image bank made of Hebrew words and images found directly in the Torah text. (see sample image titled Image Bank)

Have students continue the planning stages of the development of the visual midrash as outlined in handouts 13-16.

Gather materials, offer support and allow time for studio development of visual midrash.