

Halevai – I Wish...

Topic

Challenge and Responses, New Beginnings, Hebrew, Culture

Grade Level(s)

6th – 8th

Big Ideas

Words and short phrases serve as conduits to help people express feelings

Learning Targets

Students will:

1. Explore how new beginnings can be a source of both excitement and anxiety
2. Learn a Hebrew song on the topic
3. Examine Hebrew *milot kriyah* that express emotions that can be used as one approaches a new endeavor (new academic year, new situation, new school)

Materials / Technology Needed

- [AnswerGarden](#)
- [Recording](#) and [lyrics](#) (English) [lyrics](#) (Hebrew) of the song *Halevai*
- Biblical Sources include:
 - [Yeshayahu 2:4](#), [Beresheet 9:13](#), [Beresheet 3:23](#), [Eicha 5:21](#)
 - [Halevai](#) by Cantor Moyshe Oysher and the Barry Sisters
 - Pictures of [Boaz Sharabi](#)
 - Flashcards with *milot kriyah* in English and Hebrew (see page 6)
- [Listening: Ten Times Two](#) – A thinking Routine from Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Relevant Vocabulary

הִלְוִאי (Halevai)	I wish...
מִלַּת קְרִיָּאָה (Milat Kriyah)	Interjection: A word or phrase that mainly expresses feelings.
יֵשׁ! (Yesh)	Yes! Got it! I did it!
אוֹי וְאָבוֹי (Oy Va'avoy)	Woe is me!
אָמֵן (Amen)	Yes, indeed!
נוּ! (Nu)	Hurry up!; So? (From Yiddish)
בְּרֵאשִׁית (Beresheet)	The Book of Genesis
יֵשְׁעֵיָהוּ (Yeshayahu)	The Book of Isaiah
אֵיכָה (Eicha)	The Book of Lamentations

Prepare in Advance

- Label boxes with the categories Happiness, Sadness, Amazement, Hurry, Wishing, Positive Answers, Negative answers. Place the boxes around the room.

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Background for Teachers

The word *Halevai* in Hebrew is an interjection—*Milat Kriyah*. *Milot Kriyah* are words that express feelings. These words are grammatically independent from the words around them. The main function of *Milot Kriyah* is to allow the person to express an emotion in reference to what is being said. In general, these words appear at the beginning or at the end of a sentence. Sometimes they **are** the entire sentence. Examples: *Yesh!*—denoting happiness; *Oy Va'avoy*—denoting sadness; *Amen*—denoting wish, request; *Nu!*—denoting urging.

With lyrics written by Ehud Manor and music composed by Boaz Sharabi, the song הלָוּאִי is based on a *milat kriyah* denoting wish or request. Sharabi is a prolific Israeli composer, singer-songwriter born to Yemenite parents in 1947 in Tel Aviv. He composed many popular Israeli songs such as *Kol Od*, *Lashir Itach*, *At Li Laila*, *Pamela*, *Mi Yada Shekach Yihiyeh*, *K'Shetavo*, and *Etzli Hakol Beseder* to name some. Sharabi sang *Halevai* for the pre-Eurovision competition in 1986. The song scored only one point. However, the song later became extremely popular in Israel on the strength of its message of hope and survival. [Yehudit Ravitz](#) sang the song during Israel's *Yovel*¹ festivities in 1988.

As in many Israeli songs, the song *Halevai* contains many biblical references (see [Yeshayahu 2:4](#), [Beresheet 9:13](#), [Beresheet 3:23](#), [Eicha 5:21](#)) as well as numerous biblical nature references (dates, rainbow, storm, desert, fig tree) that demonstrate that Jewish tradition has continuously embraced idyllic ideals of hope, peace, and a brighter future despite unsettling realities and uncertain futures. Interestingly, [Cantor Moyshe Oysher and the Barry Sisters](#) sang a Yiddish-English song by the same name.

Description of Activities

1. Explain the concept of *milat kriyah*. Then, give learners cards containing the Hebrew-English *milot kriyah* (front and back respectively). Ask learners to get up and, based on which category they think each *milat kriyah* falls into, drop the cards in different boxes labeled with the category classifications around the room. Ask learners to get up and move around to complete this activity.
2. Ask learners:
 - a. What is the function of an interjection?
 - b. Have you heard any of these words before? If yes, in which context?
 - c. Ask learners: Which of these words and phrases would you use when you hear when you hear your grandparents are coming to visit? Which would you use when you find out your family is traveling to Israel? Which would

¹ *Yovel* – Refers to the jubilee year that takes place every 50 years, following seven cycles of seven-Sabbatical years.

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- you use after biting your lip while eating? Which word would you use when you are riding in a car and want to get quickly to your destination?
- d. If you could pick one favorite interjection, which one would it be? Use AnswerGarden to collect responses.
3. Use Listening: Ten Times Two
- Play Boaz Sharabi's [Halevai](#) twice.
 - Jot down 10 Hebrew words from the song that learners might recognize.
 - What interjection would you use to describe the song?
 - Have learners listen to the song by the same name sung by Cantor Moyshe Oysher and the Barry Sisters.
 - Compare and contrast both songs called *Halevai*.
 - Analyze the song *Halevai* by Boaz Sharabi using the color-coded highlights and the biblical references to reveal meaning.
 - Share background information and pictures about [Boaz Sharabi](#)
 - Read the English and Hebrew versions of the song.
 - Discuss the meaning(s) of the word *Halevai* (yellow highlight) as it appears in the song
 - What is the main theme running through the words highlighted in green?
 - What is the main theme running through the words highlighted in red?
 - Divide learners in pairs and have them write acrostic poems using the word *Halevai* or "I wish." Encourage them to focus on goals and hopes they have for the upcoming year.
 - After regrouping, learners share their acrostic poems

Differentiation Options

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

For learners who need more assistance

- Learners create pictures that represent the song *Halevai* or a picture expressing their own wishes for the upcoming year.
- Treasure Hunt and Emojis: Learners choose a book and find interjection words. Create a poster with the interjection words adding an emoji next to each word. For example: Hurray! 🎉 or in Hebrew הֵיִדּוּ

For learners who need extension opportunities

- Learners who are musically inclined compose new melodies to the acrostic poems.
- Learners analyze any of the biblical sources mentioned above.

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<p>I wish from a cloud, a rainbow come down upon us</p> <p>I wish this world could be fixed</p> <p>I wish a day spring up out of the raging storm</p> <p>I wish the gift would never be lost</p> <p>I wish the desert would sprout grass</p> <p>I wish we yet sit under the shade of the fig tree</p> <p>Chorus:</p> <p>I wish we do not suffer, and each man love his brother</p> <p>I wish the gates of Eden would again be opened</p> <p>I wish East and West would mix - together – I wish, I wish</p> <p>I wish we could renew our days here as long ago.</p> <p>I wish nation would no longer lift sword against nation</p> <p>I wish we wouldn't abandon the path of hope</p> <p>I wish the human be compassionate till evening</p> <p>I wish there be a chance for love.</p> <p>Chorus:</p> <p>I wish we do not suffer, and each man love his brother</p> <p>I wish the gates of Eden would again be opened</p> <p>I wish East and West would mix - together – I wish I wish</p> <p>I wish we could renew our days here as long ago</p>	<p><i>Halevai</i> <i>ume'anan tered aleinu keshet</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>shela'olam hazeh yesh takanah...</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>veyom yitzmach mitoch sufah go'eshet</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>velo tovad la'ad hamatanah</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>shehamidbar yatzmi'ach esev desheh</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>ve'od neshev betzel hate'edah.</i></p> <p>Chorus: <i>Halevai</i> <i>she'lo nich'av ve'ish achiv yohav</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>veyipatchu shuv sha'arei gan eden</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>veyitmazgu mizrach uma'arav - halevai</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>unechadesh yameinu kan kekedem.</i></p> <p><i>Halevai</i> <i>velo yisa od goy el goy cherev</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>velo nin'tosh et derech hatikvah</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>veha'adam yihyeh rachum ad erev</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>sheyesh sikui echad la'ahavah.</i></p> <p>Chorus: <i>Halevai</i> <i>she'lo nich'av ve'ish achiv yohav</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>veyipatchu shuv sha'arei gan eden</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>veyitmazgu mizrach uma'arav - halevai</i> <i>Halevai</i> <i>unechadesh yameinu kan kekedem.</i></p>
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הָלוֹאִי וַיִּמְעַן תִּרְדַּע עָלֵינוּ קִשְׁת

הָלוֹאִי שְׁלֵעוּלָם הִזָּה יֵשׁ תִּקְנָה...

הָלוֹאִי וַיֹּזֵם יִצְמַח מִתּוֹךְ סוּפָה גּוֹעֶשֶׁת

הָלוֹאִי וְלֹא תֵאבֵד לְעַד הַמִּתְנָה

הָלוֹאִי שֶׁהַמִּדְבָּר יִצְמִיחַ עֵשֶׂב דָּשָׁא

הָלוֹאִי וְעוֹד נִשֵּׁב בְּצֶל הַתְּאֵנָה.

הָלוֹאִי שֶׁלֹּא נִכְאָב וְאִישׁ אַחִיו יֵאָהֵב

הָלוֹאִי וַיִּפְתָּחוּ שׁוֹב שְׁעָרֵי נוֹעַדוֹ

הָלוֹאִי וַיִּתְמַזְגּוּ מִזְרַח וּמַעֲרָב

הָלוֹאִי, הָלוֹאִי וַיִּנְחַדֵּשׁ יְמֵינוּ כְּאֵן כְּקִדְשֵׁם.

הָלוֹאִי וְלֹא יִשָּׂא עוֹד גּוֹי אֶל גּוֹי חָרֵב

הָלוֹאִי וְלֹא נִנְטֵשׁ אֶת דְּרֹךְ הַתִּקְוָה

הָלוֹאִי וְהֵאָדָם יִהְיֶה רַחוּם עַד עָרֵב

הָלוֹאִי שִׁישׁ סְכוּי אֶחָד לֹאֲהַבָּה.

הָלוֹאִי שֶׁלֹּא נִכְאָב וְאִישׁ אַחִיו יֵאָהֵב

הָלוֹאִי וַיִּפְתָּחוּ שׁוֹב שְׁעָרֵי נוֹעַדוֹ

הָלוֹאִי וַיִּתְמַזְגּוּ מִזְרַח וּמַעֲרָב

הָלוֹאִי, הָלוֹאִי וַיִּנְחַדֵּשׁ יְמֵינוּ כְּאֵן כְּקִדְשֵׁם...

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יֵשׁ!	Yes
אוֹיָהּ	Oh my!
בְּבִקְשָׁה	With pleasure! Certainly! By all means!
הֲלוֹאֵי	If only...I wish...
שָׂמוּ שָׂמִים!	Oh no!
קְדִימָה	Forward, ahead!
אוֹי וְאֲבוֹי	Woe is me!
הֵידָד	Hooray!
נוּ!	So? Hurry up!