Librarians and Teachers: Integrating Modern Jewish Literature into Jewish Education

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Book cover of The Adventures of Mottel, the Cantor’s Son by Sholem Aleichem. Translated by Tamara Kahana and illustrated by Ilya Schor, 1953.
Inspirations - a sampling

_The Gilgul of Park Avenue_ by Nathan Englander, 1999

_Kaddish_ by Allen Ginsberg, 1961

_Diving into the Wreck_ by Adrienne Rich, 1973

_Say It Again, Say Something Else_ by Ayelet Tsabari, 2013

_Wildpeace_ by Yehuda Amichai, 1998
Why Integrate Jewish Literature?

- Literary Merit
- Historical Relevance
- Jewish Voice
- Jewish Cultural Identity
- Diverse

Essential Questions From Jewish Literature

How do you reconcile tradition with modernity?

How do you transmit Jewish culture from one generation to another?

What is the responsibility of the individual to the community?

How do you write about the Holocaust?

How did Jews respond to Soviet rule?

What is the experience of the “other” in Israel?

What are the perils of translation?

How do you reconcile national, cultural, and religious identity?

I.L. Peretz 1852-1915

Anna Margolin 1887-1952

Kadya Molodovsky 1894-1975
Building Partnerships
World Languages

Spanish Classes:

Jewish Identity and Immigration

Las Genealogias by Margo Glantz (1987)

Los Gauchos Judios by Alberto Gerchunoff (1910)

Bubbeh by Sabina Berman (1991)

The Alphabet in My Hands by Marjorie Agostin (2000)

The Fullness of Invisible Objects by Marjorie Agostin (2007)

Alberto Gerchunoff
1883-1950
Library Student Group
Poetry Events

Blackout Poetry

the Muse
is
taking a year off to
figure out how to pay for
the Muse can afford

Spine Poetry
Pandemic Programming
A Bisl Yiddish

Introduction to Yiddish language, literature, and culture as part of a 3-day “Live ‘n Learn” Workshop series.

“A Bisl Yiddish” Library Guide
https://libguides.gannacademy.org/Yiddish

A Bisl Yiddish: Introduction

Resources to get your started on your exploration of Yiddish language, literature, music, and theater.

A Yiddish Renaissance

During the last 30 years Yiddish has made a comeback after the loss of millions of Yiddish speakers, writers and performers in the Holocaust. This Library Guide was originally created to support the three-day Yiddish Live ‘n Learn workshop, “A Bisl Yiddish” at Gann Academy. It also provides a collection of resources for those interested in exploring the world of Yiddish language, literature and performing arts. There is now an overwhelming number of resources for everything to do with Yiddish freely available on the Web, a sign of the revival of Yiddish and the global interest in its linguistic and cultural legacy.
Online Book Group

Recorded for the New York station WLTH in the late 1930s. "Crowds on Beach and Boardwalk, Coney Island, N.Y." postcard from the Tichnor Brothers Collection at the Boston Public Library.

A Yom Kippur Scandal
By Sholem Aleichem

"The White Bear"
A fabulist story of loneliness by Arn Mayzl, translated by Sophia Shoulson.

The Shmooze
The Yiddish Book Center's podcast.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in Yiddish
By J.K. Rowling, translated by Yelena Shvartsman.

Victor Packer performing "Coney Island" live on the radio

Recorded for the New York station WLTH in the late 1930s. "Crowds on Beach and Boardwalk, Coney Island, N.Y." postcard from the Tichnor Brothers Collection at the Boston Public Library.

Sholem Aleichem

Victor Packer performing his radio poem, "Coney Island".
What Resources Are Available?
Where do modern Jewish literature and culture fit in your classroom?

Like all great books, the most powerful works of modern Jewish literature are windows into the experiences of others and mirrors that help us reflect on ourselves. This site is designed to support teachers who want to share this rich material with their students.
Immigration, Latin America, Anti-Semitism

The Pride of Argentina: the Jewish Town of Moisés Ville
Resource Kit by Miriam Taub, Alexis Aserg

Introduction

After years of facing persecution and anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, Jews began immigrating en masse to different parts of the world in the late nineteenth century. One such place was Moisés Ville, Argentina. Jews first arrived in Moisés Ville in 1889 aboard the SS Weser from Ukraine. From there, the immigrants created a lively and vibrant Jewish community that became the center of Jewish life in South America. This kit provides resources to help teachers teach about the immigration to and assimilation of Jews in Argentina, the challenges they faced, and about Moisés Ville’s unique culture as a city.
Jewish Gauchos of Argentina

Los Gauchos Judios is a series of short stories written by Alberto Gerchunoff in 1910. The stories contain a series of vignettes depicting what life was like for new Jewish immigrants in Argentina.

From The Pride of Argentina: The Jewish Town of Moises Ville. A resource kit by Miriam Taub and Alexis Aaeng.

Photograph: Courtesy of Aaron Goldman Museum, Moisés Ville, Argentina
Resources

A Bisl Yiddish Library Guide
https://libguides.gannacademy.org/Yiddish

Ruth Rubin Sound Archive, YIVO
https://ruthrubin.yivo.org/exhibits/show/ruth-rubin-sound-archive/home

Great Jewish Books
Teacher Resource Kits
http://teachgreatjewishbooks.org/

Language, Literature, and Culture
https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/language-literature-culture

The Schmooze podcast series
https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/language-literature-culture/the-shmooze

Slide 2:


Bringing Jewish Literature Into the Curriculum

How would you collaborate or build partnerships with teachers and students? Please post your ideas on this Padlet wall.
https://gannacademy.padlet.org/sfeldman/collaboration