

RESOURCE SHEETS

Session 2



Pages that need to be cut apart or shared are not set-up for back-to-back printing.

RESOURCE SHEET 2a: KING DAVID

Julia Margaret Cameron, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

<https://tinyurl.com/KgDavidphoto>

CUT HERE >>-----

Picture A



Picture B



RESOURCE SHEET 2b: The Three Crowns



history.com/tabernacle/tab4the_priestly_garments.htm



<https://www.bible->



RESOURCE SHEET 2c: The 3 Crowns Text (Teacher Background)

Rabbi Shimon said -

There are 3 crowns:

the Crown of Torah,
the Crown of Priesthood, and
the Crown of Royalty.

But the Crown of a Good Name surpasses them all. - *Pirkei Avot* 4:13

Want to know the basics?

Three types of Jewish leaders are represented by the three crowns of the text:

- *The crown of the royalty.* The Bible tells us that from the time of King Saul (1020 BCE) through the destruction of the first Temple in Jerusalem (586 BCE), a Jewish king ruled the Israelites. The monarchy passed through the line of David; it was hereditary.
- *The crown of priesthood.* All priests (in Hebrew, “*kohen*”) were descendents of Aaron, Moses’ brother, who became the first high priest in the wilderness after the escape from Egypt. Priests (all from the tribe of Levi) were responsible for the ritual aspects of worship, first in the desert, and then in the Temple in Jerusalem. The priesthood lasted from Aaron (approximately 1250 BCE) through to the Roman destruction of the second Temple in Jerusalem (70 CE). The crown of the priesthood was hereditary - passed from a *kohen* to his sons. Interestingly, that hereditary line is still known today since the name continues to be passed - those with last names of Cohen, Katz, and others, connect in history back to the biblical priesthood.
- *The crown of Torah.* Metaphorically, this referred to the rabbis - those who earned the title through study and leadership. Precursors to those with the formal title of rabbi lived in the century or so prior to the destruction of the second Temple in Jerusalem. Rabbi Yohanon ben Zakkai, who escaped Jerusalem right before its destruction, was the first to hold the title which was granted, not inherited. And yes, there had been leadership tensions between the priests and the scholars in the years prior to the Temple’s destruction. Decades after the Temple was destroyed, it became obvious that it would not be rebuilt in that time period; thus, the *kohanim*/priests would not be able to perform their duty. The rabbis then decided to dress the Torah scroll in priestly garb - a “dress” or robe, a breastplate, a sash, and a crown on the top. This is the tangible crown of Torah, representing the shift in leadership from the priests to that of the rabbis, reinforcing the centrality of the Torah and importance of study.

It is obvious that very few Jews had/have lineage that opens the door to the monarchy or the priesthood. More could aspire to the study of Torah, but it took a certain kind of intelligence,

patience, and willingness to study. The text, however, tells us that anyone can aspire to possess the crown of a good name - it is a matter of behavior choices and ethical living.

Want more details?

The Crown of Royalty

“A king does not only rule. He identifies with and becomes one with the state. He is so bound to his country that it becomes his life and sole identity. **He IS the state**, so much so that his essential self — his head — is crowned with the symbol of his calling.”

<https://torah.org/learning/pirkei-avos-chapter4-17/>

The Crown of Priesthood

Bartenura, a 15th century rabbi, noted that to remind us of the holiness of their work, a *cohen* (priest) wore a special garment that set him apart from other Jews, including an ornate headdress (crown), a robe, a breastplate and sash (see Exodus 28:31-43). These were all made from the highest quality materials due to their important role in Temple practices. As noted earlier (“basics” section), to honor the priesthood after the destruction of the Second Temple, their garments were transferred to the actual Torah scroll.

The Crown of Torah

Maimonides, a respected Jewish scholar from the 12th century, explained what it means to “be crowned a scholar.” He outlined a strict life, truly devoted to the study of Torah - someone who forgoes other activities, pastimes and pleasures in life (like too much sleep, exorbitant food or drink, or idle chatter). One who studies in the manner described by Maimonides, earns the crown of Torah. Contemporary scholars and rabbis would probably loosen the requirements to indicate one who is devoted to Jewish study, with focus on our traditional texts.

RESOURCE SHEET 2d: Pirkei Avot 4:13
(Teacher Text)

The Hebrew word for crown is כִּתְּרָר (keter). Note that in the full Hebrew quote, the כ (Kaf) grammatically changes to a כּ (Khaḥ) when preceded by an “open syllable.” The Hebrew and transliteration are correct on this page.

Rabbi Shimon said -	<i>Rah-bee Shimon omer -</i>	רַבִּי שִׁמְעוֹן אוֹמֵר -
There are 3 crowns:	<i>sh'loshah kh'tarim hem,</i>	שְׁלֹשָׁה כִּתְּרִים הֵם :
the Crown of Torah,	<i>Keter Torah</i>	כִּתְּרַ תּוֹרָה
the Crown of Priesthood,	<i>v'kheter k'hunah</i>	וְכִתְּרַ כְּהֻנָּה
and the Crown of Royalty.	<i>v'kheter malkhut,</i>	וְכִתְּרַ מַלְכוּת.
But the Crown of a Good Name	<i>V'kheter shem tov</i>	וְכִתְּרַ שֵׁם טוֹב
suprasses them all.	<i>oleh ahl ga-bay-hen.</i>	עוֹלָה עַל גַּבְיָהֶן :

Pirkei Avot 4:13

The next page may be enlarged to poster size and shared with learners.

There are 3 crowns:

- **the Crown of Torah,**
- **the Crown of Priesthood, and**
- **the Crown of Royalty.**



**But the Crown of a Good Name
is better than them all.**

RESOURCE SHEET 2e: Good Name Stories

For Extension Option 1.

If you do both Option 1 & 2, learners could go deeper with a number of these personalities.

Choose books, or a selection from books, that your learners will find of interest.

Your synagogue, school or public library may have copies.

Picture Books

As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March toward Freedom. (Richard Michelson, Ill. by Raul Colon. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008)

Early experiences of prejudice motivated Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Heschel to become civil rights activists. An idealistic introduction for primary grade children to two important religious leaders.

The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come. (Sue Macy, Ill. by Stacy Innerst. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2019)

In a folkloric voice, the author describes how Aaron Lansky saved over 1.5 million Yiddish books.

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Maker's Strike of 1909. (Michelle Markel, Ill. by Melissa Sweet. New York: Balzer and Bray, 2013)

A young and Jewish immigrant woman in New York City organizes her co-workers in a garment factory to strike against their poor working conditions. Information about the garment industry is provided at the end of the book.

Dear Mr. Rosenwald. (Carol Boston Weatherford, Ill. by Gregory R. Christie. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006)

In the early 1920s, Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck, & Co. was inspired by Booker T. Washington to give millions of dollars to build schools for African-American children in the rural South, on the condition that the local community raised money also. This picture book tells the story from the viewpoint of Ovella, age ten, part of a sharecropper family who attends a rough one-room schoolhouse when she is not picking cotton.

^{PJ} **Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty.** (Linda Glaser, Ill. by Claire A. Nivola. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009)

Tells of Emma Lazarus growing up in a wealthy Jewish family in the late nineteenth century. She was very concerned about the impoverished immigrants to the United States. Many of them were Jewish, like herself, and fled persecution in Europe. She spoke out on behalf of this group at a time when women were expected to keep quiet. She entered a poetry contest as a fundraiser for the Statue of Liberty which was a gift from France as a sign of freedom. Her poem was about freedom and rights for oppressed immigrants. It was printed on a plaque at the pedestal of the statue.

Goldie Takes a Stand: Golda Meir's First Crusade. (Barbara Krasner, Ill. by Kelsey Garrity-Riley. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2014)

A glimpse at the early life of Israel's first female Prime Minister, who was born in Russia and grew up in Milwaukee. This story is based on a true episode in the early life of Golda Meir.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her Mark. (Debbie Levy, Ill. by Elizabeth Baddeley. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016)

Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent a lifetime disagreeing: disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment, and standing up for what's right for people everywhere. This biographical picture book about the Notorious RBG, tells the justice's story through the lens of her many famous dissents, or disagreements.

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! (Jonah Winter, Ill. by Andre Carrilho. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2009)

A biography of the Jewish pitcher is written in street slang as if the author is part of the Brooklyn Dodgers and talking to the reader. It shows Koufax as unpredictable and independent. It mentions anti-Semitism from other players and the famous time Koufax refused to play the World Series game over Yom Kippur.

Chapter Books, or Books for Older Children

Abraham Joshua Heschel: Man of Spirit, Man of Action. (Or N. Rose. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2003)

A biography of the Jewish rabbi, educator, and civil rights activist that details Abraham Joshua Heschel's life from his strict Hasidic education through his escape from the Holocaust and his emigration to the U.S. It tells how he became a passionate supporter of the African-American civil rights movement.

The Champion of Children: The Story of Janusz Korczak. (Tomasz Bogacki. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2009) - for upper elementary

In 1912, a well-known doctor and writer named Janusz Korczak designed an extraordinary orphanage for Jewish children in Warsaw, Poland. Believing that children were capable of governing themselves, he encouraged the orphans to elect a parliament, run a court, and put out their own weekly newspaper. Even when Korczak was forced to move the orphanage into the Warsaw Ghetto after Hitler's rise to power, and couldn't afford to buy food and medicine for his charges, he never lost sight of his ideals.

DK Life Stories: Albert Einstein. (Wil Mara, Ill. by Charlotte Ager. DK Children, 2019)

A biography about Albert Einstein's family and education that describes his travels and troubles. The story of how he received a special compass as a young boy that first set him on a path to questioning the world around him.

The Failure Book: How 22 Extraordinary People Persisted to Beat the Odds and How You Can Too. (Karen Lilly. Millburn, New Jersey : Behrman House, 2019)

"What do Albert Einstein, Michael Jordan, JK Rowling, P!nk, and Abraham Lincoln all have in common? They messed up. They miscalculated. They made mistakes. They FAILED. So did every one of the extraordinary people profiled in this book. One couldn't get into college and another lost several elections. One was sent to prison and another had his factory blow up. Yet when faced with failure, each found ways to persist, beat the odds, and come out on top." *For this unit, choose Jewish personalities.*

Janusz Korczak's Children. (Gloria Spielman. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2007) - for upper elementary
Henryk Goldszmidt was more popularly known as Janusz Korczak. Janusz Korczak was a writer, doctor, and an enlightened leader in the field of education. He established a Jewish orphanage in Warsaw, where he introduced the world to his progressive ideas in child development and children's rights. When the Nazis occupied Warsaw, the orphanage was moved to the ghetto. Then, when the children were deported to a concentration camp, Dr. Korczak was offered his freedom. He refused and boarded the train with the children to Treblinka.

Note - When we went to press, Amazon was selling a single copy for almost \$1000. Order from the publisher for a much better price!

Marcel Marceau: Master of Mime. (Gloria Spielman. Ill. by Manon Gauthier, Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2011)
As a young Jewish boy, Marcel Marceau knew he wanted to be a silent actor, just like Charlie Chaplin. When World War II intervened, he joined the resistance, helping to get young Jews to safety during this dangerous time. The illustrations are mixed media.

Natan Sharansky: Freedom Fighters for Soviet Jews. (Blake Hoena, Ill. by Daniele Dickmann. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2021)

A graphic novel biography about the Soviet Jewry “refusenik” and human rights activist Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky. He was born in 1948 to a Jewish family in Ukraine (at that time part of the Soviet Union). He was arrested as a young man and later imprisoned for wanting to leave the Soviet Union and go to Israel. His struggle became the struggle of all Soviet Jews who wished to leave. With the help of his wife, many Jewish activists, and world leaders, he eventually succeeded in immigrating to Israel, paving the way for the release of other Soviet Jews who wished to live in freedom.

Who Was Harry Houdini? (Tui T. Sutherland. New York, Random House, 2019)

A biography about the life of the famous Jewish magician.

RESOURCE SHEET 2f: Name List

Older elementary learners choose a person to research.

All the names, below, have resources that are age-appropriate, but please preview for your particular children.

Books listed are fully cited in the main bibliography, at the end of the curriculum guide.

American History

Abraham Joshua Heschel

- Rabbi, scholar, and civil rights activist

RESOURCES

- Book: *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Man of Spirit, Man of Action*
- Book: *As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March toward Freedom*
- Video: "Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel Interview Clips" <https://tinyurl.com/3AJHeschel> (stop at 2:31)

Emma Lazarus

- Poet and upstander for impoverished immigrants

RESOURCES

- Book: *Liberty's Voice: The Story of Emma Lazarus*
- Book: *Emma's Poem: The Statue of Liberty*
- Video: "Emma Lazarus: Featuring Interview with Ken Burns" <https://tinyurl.com/3ELazarus>

Golda Meir

- Israel's first female Prime Minister

RESOURCES

- Book: *Goldie Takes a Stand: Golda Meir's First Crusade* (This story tells of her raising funds for poor children in Milwaukee)
- Video: "Golda Meir - Israel's First (and only) Female Prime Minister" (An adult should read the words on each page to the learners. Pause for discussion at various points). <https://tinyurl.com/3GMeir>
- Video: "Golda Meir - A Life in Quotes" (An adult should read the words on the page to the learners. Pause for discussion at various points). <https://tinyurl.com/3GoldaMeir>
- Video: "Made in Milwaukee: Golda Meir" (This is a historical look at her life) <https://tinyurl.com/3MeirGolda>

Hannah Shapiro Glick

- Also known as "Annie," she was an instrumental figure in organizing a clothing workers' strike in Chicago

RESOURCES

- Book: *Annie Shapiro and the Clothing Workers' Strike*

Julius Rosenwald

- President of Sears, Roebuck & Co. He built schools for African-American children in the rural South.

RESOURCES:

- Book: *Dear Mr. Rosenwald*
- Video: "Rosenwald Trailer" <https://tinyurl.com/3JRosenwald>

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

- Supreme Court Justice

RESOURCES

- Book: *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*,
 - Video: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Video (from PJ Library, with her talking about and reading part of the *I Dissent* book; stop at 1:49). <https://tinyurl.com/3RBGinsburg>
- Book and Video: "Who Was Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Read Aloud with Author Lisbeth Kaiser" <https://tinyurl.com/3GinsburgRB>

Arts and Literature

Aaron Lansky

- Rescuer of Yiddish books

RESOURCES

- *The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature (etc).*
- Video: Bridge of Books (you could stop at 6:30) <https://tinyurl.com/3ALansky>

Alicia Markova

- The first Jewish prima ballerina assoluta in history

RESOURCES

- Book: *An Unlikely Ballerina*

Harry Houdini

- Magician

RESOURCES

- Book: *Who Was Harry Houdini?*
- Video and Article: "Harry Houdini" <https://tinyurl.com/3HHoudini>

Science

Albert Einstein

- Scientist, supporter of Israel, and upstander against anti-Semitism

RESOURCES

- Book: *DK Life Stories: Albert Einstein*
- Video: "Albert Einstein: Jewish Genius" <https://tinyurl.com/3AEinstein>
- Video: "Albert Einstein for Kids" (no Jewish focus) <https://tinyurl.com/3EinsteinA>

Sports

Sandy Koufax

- Baseball player, well known for refusing to pitch at the opening game of the 1965 World Series on Yom Kippur

RESOURCES

- Book: *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!*
- Video: “Sandy Koufax and Yom Kippur” <https://tinyurl.com/3SKoufax>
- Article: “Sandy Koufax Responded to a Higher Authority on Yom Kippur” (learners will probably need an adult’s support to read) <https://tinyurl.com/3KoufaxS>

Aly Raisman

- American Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics. Her 2012 floor routine was to the classic Jewish song, *Hava Nagillah*.

RESOURCES

- Article: “Aly Raisman Talks Judaism and Gymnastics” (skip to the Q&A section; learners may need adult support) <https://tinyurl.com/3ARaisman>
- Video: <https://tinyurl.com/3RaismanA> (her 2012 floor routine)

World History - Holocaust

Janusz Korczak

- A doctor and head of an orphanage in Warsaw during World War II

RESOURCES

- Book: *The Champion of Children: Janusz Korczak*
- Book: *Janusz Korczak’s Children*

Uri Shulevitz

- Children’s book author and illustrator; he earned Caldecott Medals for some of his children’s books.

RESOURCES

- Book: *Chance: Escape from the Holocaust*
- Video, “Uri Shulevitz at the Eric Carle Museum” (talks about his escape from the Holocaust, though without disturbing details). <https://tinyurl.com/3UShulevitz> and this video <https://tinyurl.com/3ShulevitzU> is a reading of the book from which many illustrations are taken.

Marcel Marceau

- As a teen, he quietly rescued Jews during World War II. He became famous as a pantomime actor. [Note that his Jewish story is deeply connected to the Holocaust.]

RESOURCES

- Book: *Marcel Marceau: Master of Mime*
- Book: *Monsieur Marceau: Actor without Words*
- Video: “How Legendary Marcel Marceau Saved Jewish Children” (an adult should read the text so children can focus on the images) <https://tinyurl.com/3MMarceau> [Another option: <https://tinyurl.com/3MarceauM>]

World History - Other

Natan Sharansky

- A Soviet Jewish refusenik whose efforts helped rescue other Soviet Jews

RESOURCES

- Book: *Natan Sharansky: Freedom Fighters for Soviet Jews*, 4-6
- Video: "From Darkness to Light - The Journey of Natan Sharansky"
<https://tinyurl.com/3NSharansky> (make sure to preview to see if this is right for your learners)

Additional Research Resources:

Jewish Virtual Library. Biographies. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/biographies> - Biographical information of Jewish heroes.

Jewish Women's Archive. <https://jwa.org/> - documents stories of extraordinary Jewish women.

National Museum of American Jewish History. Only in America Gallery/Hall of Fame.
<https://www.nmajh.org/only-in-america/> - Celebrates extraordinary Jewish American people.

