



Student Handout: Mural Quote Exploration

Check out this **prayer** in the mural
(Find the prayer on panels 1A, 2B, 2D, 3A, 3C, 3E)

- Title: Mourner's Kaddish
- Original poem language: Hebrew
- Full text in English:

Magnified and sanctified is the great name of God throughout the world, which was created according to Divine will. May the rule of peace be established speedily in our time, unto us and unto the entire household of Israel. And let us say: Amen.

May God's great name be praised throughout all eternity. Glorified and celebrated, lauded and praised, acclaimed and honored, extolled and exalted ever be the name of thy Holy One, far beyond all song and psalm, beyond all hymns of glory which mortals can offer. And let us say: Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, with life's goodness for us and for all thy people Israel. And let us say: Amen.

May the One who brings peace to the universe bring peace to us and to all the people Israel. And let us say: Amen.

Learn about the **prayer**:

The Mourner's Kaddish is a Hebrew prayer that Jewish people recite in all prayer services in memory of those who have died. Along with the *Shema* prayer (which is also present in the mural), the Kaddish is one of the most important prayers in the Jewish services. The prayer does not explicitly mention death, but instead is a prayer praising God and expresses hope for peace.

Once established in 1964, The Monument to Six Million Jewish Martyrs at the Holocaust Memorial Plaza became a site of remembrance and mourning for Holocaust survivors and their families. Without gravesites for family and friends lost in the Holocaust, the Holocaust Memorial Plaza serves as a space for generations to come reflect and remember- often through the recitation of the Kaddish.

Answer the following questions:

- How does this quote connect to Holocaust history?
- Why do you think this quote was included in the mural?



Student Handout: Mural Quote Exploration

Check out this **Song** in the mural

(Find the song on panels 1H, 2A, 3A, 4B, 5A, 5C)

- Title: Somewhere Over the Rainbow
- Author: Yip Harburg and Harold Arlen
- Original song language: English
- Year written: 1939
- Full text in English:

*Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby
Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true
Someday I'll wish upon a star and wake up where the clouds are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops, away above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me
Somewhere over the rainbow bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow, why then, oh, why can't I?
Somewhere over the rainbow bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow, why then, oh, why can't I?
If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?*

Learn about the **song**:

Written for the film, *The Wizard of Oz*, the song's lyrics describe longing for a better, more hopeful place. The song resonated deeply with those facing hardship and became an anthem of hope and resilience. It reflected the yearning for escape during the Great Depression and then later during the challenges of World War II. It has since been embraced by various social and political movements and shared in many contexts, symbolizing the universal desire for a better world.

The song's authors, Yip Harburg and Harold Arlen, along with their friend Ira Gershwin who assisted, were the sons of Jewish immigrants who had fled to the United States to escape antisemitic violence in Eastern Europe. Arlen and Gershwin were well known writers and composers for movies and plays. While Harburg was also a known **composer**, **he was better known** for writing about oppression and social justice themes. One of his most well-known songs "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" was an anthem of the Great Depression and was sang by the likes of Bing Crosby and Tom Waits.

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- Why do you think this quote was included in the mural?

Student Handout: Mural Quote Exploration

Check out this **Poem** in the mural

(Find the poem on panels 1H, 1F, 1G, 2F, 2G, 3F, 3G, 4D, 4E, 4F, 5C, 5D, 5E, 6E, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 8A, 8B, 8C)

- Title: A Walk to Caesarea
- Author: Hannah Szenes
- Original poem language: Hebrew
- Year written: 1942
- Full text in English:

*My God, my God,
may it never end –
the sand and the sea,
the rustle of the water,
the lightning of the sky,
the prayer of man*

Learn about the **poem**:

Hannah Szenes wrote this poem while living on Kibbutz Sdot Yam near the ancient port town of Caesarea in British Mandate Palestine.

Szenes was born in 1921 in Budapest, Hungary to an assimilated Jewish family. She attended a Protestant private school and was identified as a gifted student. Amid rising antisemitism in Budapest, Szenes emigrated to British Mandate Palestine in 1939 to study agriculture. There she enlisted in the British Army and was selected for the Special Operatives Executive- a special team that conducted espionage and sabotage missions in Nazi occupied Europe, as well as supported local resistance movements against the Nazis.

On a mission to aid a resistance group in Hungary, Szenes's team learned Hungary had been occupied by the Nazis and decided to abort the mission. However, Szenes and two colleagues were determined to carry on, and after parachuting into Yugoslavia, they continued towards the Hungarian border. At the border the three were arrested and tortured for information. Szenes would not speak, and was ultimately tried for treason and executed by firing squad at the age of 23 in 1944.

After World War II ended in 1945, the poem was set to music, and is commonly sung on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Answer the following questions:

- How does this quote connect to Holocaust history?
- Why do you think this quote was included in the mural?



Student Handout: Mural Quote Exploration

Check out this **Quote** in the mural
(Find the quote on panels 1D, 2B, 3F)

- Author: Martin Niemöller
- Originally written in: German
- Year written: 1940s
- Full text in English:

First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me- and there was no one left to speak for me.

Learn about the **quote**:

Martin Niemöller was born in 1892 in Germany. He was a Lutheran pastor and theologian. Initially, Niemöller supported German nationalism and Adolf Hitler but as the Nazi regime became more oppressive his stance shifted and he became a vocal opponent of the Nazis. He co-founded the *Confessing Church*, which resisted Nazi interference in Protestant churches. He was arrested in 1937 for his resistance activities and spent seven years in concentration camps until the war ended in 1945.

The quote emerged from speeches he gave after World War II, reflecting on his regret for not speaking out against the Nazis early on. The quote notes the gradual persecution of different groups, and serves as a warning against indifference and inaction in the face of oppression. This quote (and versions of it) have been widely used to highlight the importance of standing up against oppression before it is too late.

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- How does this quote connect to Holocaust history?
- Why do you think this quote was included in the mural?