

Curriculum/discussion Guide

A Queen to the Rescue: The Story of Henrietta Szold, Founder of Hadassah

by Nancy Churnin, illustrated by Yevgenia Nayberg

ISBN: 978-1-939547-95-8

Lexile Level 610; AD610L; MSL 7.702; MLF 3.643; Decoding 71; Decoding Display High; Semantic 84; Semantic Display Very High; Syntactic 80; Syntactic Display High; Structure 83; Structure Display Very High

Guided Reading Level Q, Grade Level Equivalent 4

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3,4,4a,5,5a,5b,5c,6; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.3,3a,4,4a,4c; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1,1c,1d,2,3,4,5,6; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.4,7,8,9,9a,9b,10

Educational Description: Literary non-fiction, biography. Themes: social justice, social activism, cultural diversity, women's history, Jewish history. Storytelling elements: plot and character development, cause and effect relationships, conflict and resolution, detailed illustrations and figurative language enhance meaning and tone; hyperbole, metaphor, simile, visualization. New vocabulary: Hebrew. Informational back matter; Note from the author.

Themes: Social Justice, Social Activism, Determination, Women's History, Jewish History

Henrietta Szold took the biblical figure of Queen Esther as a role model. What did she like about Esther's story? How did she want to follow her example?

One reason why Queen Esther mattered so much to Henrietta was that Esther was the only strong Jewish woman Henrietta knew about. Can you think of important Jewish woman you've heard about? What did these women accomplish?

Henrietta wanted to find ways to help people. Did she succeed? Why or why not?

Was it easy for Henrietta to help people? How were things difficult for her? How were they easy?

How did Henrietta help people who weren't Jewish? How did she help those who were? Do you think it was important to her to help a wide range of people? Point to examples in the story as evidence.

What do you think was the most important thing Henrietta did? Why? What do you think Henrietta would say was the most important thing she did?

Writing/story-telling Strategies

A Queen to the Rescue is a picture book. How does the art add to the story? Give specific examples where the pictures provide information the text doesn't.

How do you get a sense of Henrietta's character, her personality? Point to specific places in the words and pictures that show you what kind of person she was.

How does the style and palette (the choice of colors) affect the mood of the story? Give examples of specific pages to explain your opinion.

Try drawing your own picture to go with a page of the story. Decide how you would present or interpret what the words are saying. Make sure you do something very different from what the illustrator, Yevgenia Nayberg, has already done. A lot of the images express a mood rather than showing a specific event. For example: “Whenever Henrietta saw a need, she organized and worked until she made a difference. There weren’t enough Jewish books? In 1893, she became the first editor for the Jewish Publication Society.” What kind of picture can you draw to go with those words?

HEAL THE WORLD PROJECT

Henrietta tried to make things better in big ways and small. In the Jewish tradition, this is called *tikkun olam* (pronounced tee-KOON oh-LUMH), which means heal the world – making it better through social action and social justice. How can you heal the world and make it better? What kind of difference can you make? Maybe you see trash on the sidewalk and pick it up. Maybe you bring a meal to a person who can’t leave their home. Maybe you eat lunch with a student who looks lonely. Find your own way to heal the world and we’ll post your stories and photos on HEAL THE WORLD, a special page on nancychurnin.com

Additional Work

Women’s stories are often left out of history. Find a woman who accomplished something that you want to know more about. Where can you learn more about women like Henrietta?