



JCC Association  
of North America



## Am Yisrael Chai Book Project

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### Hatikvah by Naftali Herz Imber Book Editor's Note and Guide for Educators

#### Hatikvah: A Timeless Hope

The word *Hatikvah*, meaning "The Hope," encapsulates the profound, enduring aspiration of the Jewish people over two millennia—a longing for freedom, self-expression, and the restoration of a homeland in the Land of Israel. This anthem is more than a song; it is a testament to resilience and dreams fulfilled.

#### A Visual and Musical Journey

In this illustrated rendition of *Hatikvah*, you won't find a line-by-line interpretation of every word. Instead, the vibrant artwork tells its own story, bringing to life the diverse neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Through these illustrations, children from various backgrounds come together in harmony, forming a collective project of music and song. This imagery mirrors the joy and unity expressed in the words of Psalms:  
*"Then our mouths will be filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of joy."*  
(Psalms 126:2)

#### Tools for Learning and Creativity

To deepen the engagement with *Hatikvah*, this book includes:

- **Musical Notes:** Simplified sheet music for playing the anthem on instruments like the recorder or xylophone.
- **Language Support:** The Hebrew text is both translated and transliterated to help educators and students of all levels.
- **Inviting Personal Reflection**  
The final page of the book invites children to imagine and express their own vision of hope—whether individual or national. This activity encourages them to

connect personally with the anthem's themes of aspiration and unity, fostering creativity and self-expression.

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*Designed for educators and families, this book invites readers to experience the spirit of Hatikvah not only as a national anthem but as a living expression of joy, creativity, and shared history. We hope this book inspires children, students, and communities to explore the themes of hope, freedom, and unity as integral parts of the Jewish and Israeli story.*

### **Suggested Classroom Experiences to Enhance the Book Exploration:**

- [I see, I think, I wonder protocol](#)
- Invite educators and families' stories of engagement with the Hatikvah or memories attached to the singing of the Hatikvah – my memories at elementary school
- Questions to explore with the children:
  - What is in our heart? What can we carry in our hearts? What stays in our hearts? What does it mean when something or someone is in our hearts?
  - What is a dream? What do you think the people in the illustration are dreaming of? Do you have dreams?
  - “*Our eyes turning to Zion*” - what our eyes tend to turn to?
  - What is hope? What does it mean to hope for something? What do you hope for? (to explore with educators – difference between dreams and hope; and between hope and optimism – Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)
  - “*To be free in our land*” - what does it mean to be free? What is your land?
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### **Hebrew Words:**

- Tikvah: hope
- Lev: heart
- Eretz: land (Eretz Tzion, Eretz Israel)

### [Hatikvah You Tube Video](#)

This is only one of the many versions