

CJL Literacy Goals:
What learners should know by the end of each year

In every grade: What it means to be a respectful member of a learning community

Kindergarten

Torah

- The Torah is special
- What a *Sefer Torah* (Torah scroll) looks like
- Familiarity with people in Torah stories & what we can learn from them

Holidays

- What is the story of each holiday?
- What are celebrating?
- Shabbat is a special day

Israel

- Israel is a special place to the Jewish people
- Israel is our second home: What does that mean?

Hebrew

- Familiarity with some Hebrew letters & the sounds they make

Recitation

- Ability to say or sing the Shabbat blessing over wine (*borei pri ha-gafen*)
- Introduction to blessings for lighting Chanukah candles & Four Questions (Ma Nishtana)

Other

- Tzedakah

First grade

Torah

- What a *Sefer Torah* is and that we keep the *Sefer Torah* in the *Aron* (ark)
- Basic Torah stories

Holidays

- Stories of each holiday
- What are the special things we do on each holiday?
- Shabbat is a special day

Israel

- Symbols of Israel (the Israeli flag, the Kotel, the menorah)
- Israel is our Jewish homeland.

Hebrew

- Familiarity with some Hebrew letters and the sounds they make

Recitation

- Familiarity with the Shabbat blessings over wine, challah, and candles
- Introduction to blessings for lighting Chanukah candles & Four Questions (Ma Nishtana)

Other

- Familiarity with objects found in a synagogue (*Aron, ner tamid, bimah*)

Second grade

Torah

- Familiarity with people and stories
- The Torah speaks to each of us and helps us know how to behave
- What a *Sefer Torah* is and that we keep in the *aron* (ark)

Holidays

- Basic understanding of each holiday and how we celebrate them

Israel

- It is our Jewish homeland
- How Jewish holidays are connected to and celebrated in Israel

Hebrew

- Hebrew is the Jewish language, the language of the Torah and Israel
- Recognition of the letters and the sounds they make

Recitation

- Ability to say or sing the blessings over wine, Shabbat candles, and challah
- Familiarity with the blessings for lighting Chanukah candles and ability to sing the first blessing. Familiarity with the Four Questions (*Ma Nishtana*) and ability to sing the first two.

Third grade

Torah

- What a *Sefer Torah* is, that we keep it in the *aron* (ark), what the *ner tamid* is
- There are five books in the Torah
- Familiarity with the stories and people in the Torah

Holidays

- What is the story of each holiday?
- Basic practices and customs
- What are the special objects we use on each holiday?

Israel

- It is our Jewish homeland with roots in the Torah
- Hebrew is spoken in Israel
- Introduction to basic geography: major cities and regions (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Negev, Eilat, Haifa) and bodies of water (Dead Sea, Kinneret, Mediterranean)

Hebrew

- Mastery of letters and vowels
- Ability to read blends (two letters and a vowel)

Recitation

- Fluency in recitation or singing of Shabbat blessings over candles, wine, and challah
- Ability to sing blessings for lighting candles on Chanukah
- Ability to sing the Four Questions (*Ma Nishtana*)

Fourth grade

Torah

- What is a *Sefer Torah*? What is an *aron*?
- How many books are in the Torah? What are their names?
- Understand Torah stories through the lens of relationships (What are the relationships between different people in the Torah like and what do they teach us?)

Holidays

- What are the stories, customs, and ritual objects for each holiday?
- Blessings connected with holidays

Israel

- Above (the Jewish homeland, Hebrew is spoken there, basic geography)
- What's cool about Israel? Music, technology, Hebrew, cool places to visit

Recitation

- Ability to recite or sing Shabbat blessings over candles, wine and challah, to sing blessings for lighting candles on Chanukah, *Ma Nishtana*, and the *Shema*.
- Familiarity with *V'ahavta*

Fifth grade

Torah

- How many books are in the Torah and what are their names?
- Know Torah stories through the lens of Jewish values (What do the Torah stories teach us about the kind of people we should try to be?)

Holidays

- What are the stories, customs, ritual objects, and blessings connected with each holiday?
- Mitzvot and *middot* (values) connected to each holiday

Israel

- Israel is the Jewish homeland with roots in the Torah, basic geography (major cities and regions)
- Israel is a democracy and what the Knesset is

Recitation

- Fluency reading and chanting Shabbat blessings, blessings for lighting Chanukah candles, *Ma Nishtana*, and the *Shema*
- Increased facility chanting *V'ahavta*

6th grade

Torah

- What's a *chumash*? What's a *parasha*?
- Names of the five books in the Torah
- Understand Torah stories through the lens of character traits (leadership, kindness, etc.)

Holidays

- What are the stories, customs, ritual objects, blessings, and mitzvot connected with each holiday? Big review!
- Historical and global context: where did this holiday come from and how is it celebrated around the world?

Israel

- Israel is the Jewish homeland, basic geography
- Israel's diversity and how it got that way: immigration (*aliyot*)

Recitation

- Fluency reading and chanting Shabbat blessings, blessings for lighting Chanukah candles, and the *Shema*
- Ability to chant *V'ahavta* and the Torah blessings
- Familiarity with the Amidah (*Avot/Imahot*, *G'vurot*)