Lesson at a Glance

Students will create a definition of a hero and decide how that definition applies to different characters in the Entebbe story. Students will have the opportunity to review the events of the Entebbe raid and link the rescue mission to a quotation from *Psalms*.

BabagaNewz.com Connections

Experience the Entebbe Raid

Note

The source is well known because it is the last line of Birkat haMazon *and the* Mizmor L'David *prayer that is sung on Shabbat when the Torah is returned to the ark.*

"Rescue at Entebbe" (PAGES 14-17)

LESSON PLAN BY ANN R. BERMAN

CONCEPTS AND OBJECTIVES

- Students will define the word hero as an individual who uses his/her talents for the betterment of society, often enduring personal risk to do so.
- Students will understand the chain of events that led to the rescue operation at Entebbe.

MOTIVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Before reading the article, define "hero." Ask students to list the names of people that they think of as heroes. Accept any names, even fictitious ones, and list them on the board. Then ask students to identify what characteristics apply in general to these heroes. Students will thereby develop a working definition of a hero as a person who uses his or her talents for the good of society, often enduring personal risk to do so. Keep the list on the board, and erase the characteristics that are not generally applicable to most heroes.

2. Define "hijacking." This story represents a particularly riveting piece of modern history, not just Jewish history. Since the raid on Entebbe, there have been very few hijackings. Before reading the story, find out what the students know. During the 1970s, most hijackers presented a list of demands in exchange for the hostages. Most hostages were not killed because governments negotiated with the hijackers for the release of the hostages.

3. Read the article and discuss the events that took place.

Why did Israel not want to negotiate with the hijackers?

What was Israel risking by negotiating and by not negotiating?

Why was Israel involved at all since it was an Air France flight, not an El Al flight?

Students should locate Israel, Uganda, Athens and France on a map.

4. Create a flow chart of the events. Divide the class into three groups. The task of each group is to list the activities of the different groups of people in this story. One group lists the activities of the hijackers; a second group lists the activities of the hostages; and a third group details the activities of the Israeli government and army. Share the lists as a review of the events. Discuss the goals of each. What in particluar, motivated the Israeli rescuers?

JEWISH TEXT

Psalms 29:11

God gives strength to God's people; God blesses God's people with peace.

Why is this an appropriate citation for the story about Entebbe? Cite examples from the article where people acted with strength in order to bring peace.

The rabbis included this as the culminating line of *Birkat HaMazon* and the Shabbat Torah service. How do you think the rabbis thought about strength?

How does this line fit with the class definition of a hero from the beginning of the lesson?

FOLLOW-UP AND ENRICHMENT

Stamps are often issued to commemorate important people and events. On a sheet of paper, students can design a stamp to commemorate the raid on Entebbe. The stamp can celebrate the IDF's success, memorialize a fallen hero, or combine images of Entebbe with the quote from Psalms.

RELATED WEB SITES/ADDITIONAL SOURCES

There are many videos available about the raid on Entebbe. Students can view *Operation Thunderbolt* in class.

Students can read a book about the life and death of Yonatan Netanyahu: *Yoni Netanyahu: Commando at Entebbe*, by Devra Newberger Speregen, JPS Young Biography Series. This biography is available for purchase from Baba Bookz, the BabagaNewz book club.

The official web site for the Israel Defense Forces
www.idf.il

A site commemorating the heroism of Yonatan Netanyahu
www.yoni.org.il

Vocabulary for Your Students

צְבָא הֲגָנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל/צה"ל
IDF, Israel Defense Forces

חוֹטֵף
hijacker

בֶּן-עֲרֻבָּה
hostage

חָלָל
fallen soldier