

Education with the National Library of Israel

A Shana Tova card at Hanukkah?

Analyzing a Historic Postcard and Discovering its Secrets...



What is this? Is it a Shana Tova card or is it a Happy Hanukkah card?

The National Library of Israel contains a large collection of historic postcards and greeting cards. These postcards contain fascinating photographs and illustrations, but more than that they contain secrets just waiting to be discovered.

And the best way to discover those secrets is to examine the postcard step by step.

Stage 1 – First Impressions

The first stage is to describe the item:

What does the item look like? What is it made of? What is your first impression on looking at it?

Describe what is happening in the picture?

Stage 2 – Exploring the Details

Now it's time for a more thorough investigation:

Which characters appear in the illustration? Which objects? What is in the background? What is going on? What is the writing on the side of the postcard? What are the most important items in the postcard?

Education with the National Library of Israel

Stage 3 – Understanding the Meanings

Having received a general impression of the postcard and its contents, it's now time to understand the significance of the details and draw some conclusions:

What do the details of the postcard tell us about the time period? What do we learn about the illustrator of the postcard? What can we understand from the text? What atmosphere is created by the composition of the illustration and the integration of the items in the photograph?

Stage 4 – Reflecting and Evaluating

After analyzing the postcard and attempting to discover its hidden secrets, other questions emerge.

What was the purpose of the postcard? Who printed it? When and where? Were there others in the series? Who was the illustrator? Were the illustrator or the printers Jewish?
