



Ebi's

Story time



It was the first day of the new school year. Naomi and her family recently moved to Israel. She hadn't met any new friends and couldn't speak Hebrew so felt very uncertain and lonely as she walked through the school gate.

Just then a girl about her age walked up to her. "Shalom. Are you a new girl in our school?" "Yes" Naomi said, "but I can not speak Hebrew yet. I only know a few words." "No problem" the girl answered. "We moved to Israel about a year ago and I also had to learn Hebrew. My name is Talia. Come, I will introduce you to some more friends who also recently moved to Israel."

Talia showed Naomi around the school, the classrooms and the playgrounds. When they got to the swings they met a boy. "Shalom David. This is Naomi. They have just moved to Israel so she can't speak Hebrew yet." "Shalom Naomi. Welcome to Israel and to our school. Our family moved just recently and when we arrived I could also not speak Hebrew, but you will learn the language very quickly. Come, you should meet the rest of our friends, we're all really close." By the end of the day she had met boys and girls from loads of different countries, some countries she'd never heard of before, but now they all live in Israel. After all, this is the country God had specially set aside for the Jews and they all remember how their grandparents had waited for many many years to live in Israel. Now they were living out that dream!

That afternoon, when Naomi got home, her parents noticed her massive smile and asked her how her day was. She told them 'I made lots of new friends whose families also moved here from many different countries - America, France, Morocco, Ethiopia ... And they taught me new Hebrew words like 'Toda', which means 'Thank you'. I can't wait to go back tomorrow!'

Soon her parents also met friends who helped them find the necessary shops and taught them how to find the right bus to get to their destination. After some time they travelled to other parts of the country only to find out that Israel is even more beautiful than they thought before they moved there. The family attended special Hebrew classes which made life somewhat easier for everybody. They even started speaking some Hebrew at home.





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After some time it was Naomi's birthday. She remembered all her friends who used to come to her birthday party in the past. For a moment she felt very sad to think it would not be impossible for them to come this year. But she had met so many new friends whom she invited. They had so much fun and the children taught her some new songs in Hebrew. They laughed and danced and enjoyed the day.



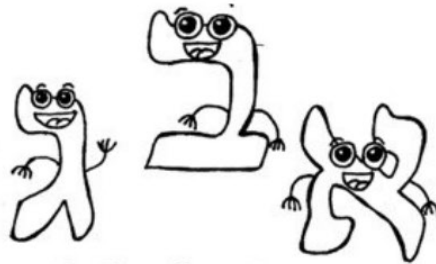
A few months later Naomi received a letter from her friend Hadassah, who she knew from synagogue when she was growing up, before her family moved to Israel. Hadassah said in her letter that her family was also making the big decision to move to Israel and they would be arriving in a few months time - this was the best news ever! Naomi was so excited to introduce her to everyone and she already knew when Hadassah's brother met her new friend David, they would become friends instantly.



By the time Hadassah and her family arrived in Israel, Naomi was already settled in school and the neighborhood. She could even teach Hadassah a few Hebrew words and soon she met all Naomi's friends. What a wonderful time they all had together. Hadassah told Naomi about all her friends from their old synagogue growing up and how they have missed her. Now that Hadassah and Naomi were together again, they started to hope and pray that their friends from the synagogue would join them in Israel. Hadassah also gave Naomi special gifts and messages from friends at their old school. These friends were not Jewish like them, and so wouldn't be moving to Israel, but as Naomi read their special letters and opened their presents she cherished the wonderful memories they had together. It was hard for their old school friends to say goodbye to Naomi and Hadassah when they moved to Israel. But they learned that it is God's desire for the Jews to live in Israel, and so they prayed for them and said encouraging words to them as they left. Even now, they keep sharing this wonderful news with other non-Jewish friends.

Ebi's

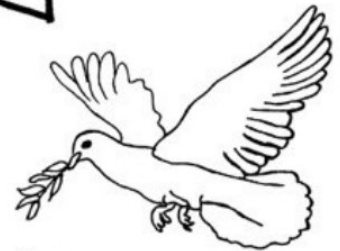
Worksheet



Alef-Bet



shalom



Write from left to right



שלום

Toda

Write from right to left



THANK
YOU

תודה

CERTIFICATE

of merit

For completing the first Ulpan class

Awarded to: _____



Ebi's

Colouring In



"I will whistle for them and gather them together"

- Zechariah 10:8

