

Porchim Leshuvam

Return to bloom / פורחים לשובם

Background for Teacher:

Yishai Ribo, whose family made aliyah from France when he was eight years old, is one of the best-known Israeli singer-songwriters today. He is known for his religious-spiritual music which is also loved by a wide secular audience. He explains that his newest song "Porchim Leshuvam" - "carries with it the pain but also the growth, what is missing but also what there is and above all faith that everything will still turn to good." The song was released on Rosh Chodesh Adar during the flourishing season of spring in Israel with the hope that "everything that withered will bloom again."



While Watching

Divide students into small groups and give each group a card with a different phrase from the song. Each group will need to find their phrase in the song and explain the meaning and source of the phrase to the other groups.



After Watching

The main metaphor for hope and renewal used in this song is that of flowers and trees that always return to bloom after the darkness of the winter.

This year, red Kalanipot are particularly significant because they grow wild and plentiful in the fields surrounding many of the Negev kibbutzim that were attacked on October 7. Jewish and Israeli artists have been using the Kalanit to as a symbol of solidarity. Many examples can be seen at <https://www.mykalanipot.com/>. In addition, in the national project called "Kalanipot lifnei hageshem," 100,000 red clay flowers were displayed in rotating locations throughout the country. Inspired by this song and examples of Israeli artwork, have students create their own hopeful images using Kalanipot, incorporating lyrics from Ribo's song.



Porchim Leshuvam

[Link to youtube](#)

All of the tears, the pain that ripped from my heart
 Will still grow into a world
 Orchard fields of truth, anemone flowers, and almond
 trees will return to bloom

All that we have been through
 We also have made mistakes along the way
 But we learned in the end
 That we can't alone

All that we have known
 It turns out that we didn't know
 And how is it that from our joyous day
 We have not had a pause

All of the tears, the pain, that ripped from my heart
 Will still grow into a world
 Orchard fields of truth, anemone flowers, and almond
 trees will return to bloom

The morning of Shmini Atzeret
 When time stood still
 Foxes destroyed vineyards
 They took the body but not the soul
 And then through the shock
 We multiplied goodness, we increased kindness
 Both iron and a sword
 And prayers in the synagogue

פורחים לשובם

מילים: ישי ריבו
 לחן: מאור שושן וישי ריבו

כל הדמעות הכאב שבקעו מהלב
 עוד יצמיחו עולם
 שדות פרדסים של אמת כלנית ושקד
 יפרחו לשובם

כל מה שעברנו
 בדרך גם טעינו
 אבל בסוף למדנו
 שלא נוכל לבד

כל מה שידענו
 התברר שלא ידענו
 ואיך מיום שמחתנו
 אין לנו רגע דל

כל הדמעות הכאב שבקעו מהלב
 עוד יצמיחו עולם
 שדות פרדסים של אמת כלנית ושקד
 יפרחו לשובם

בוקר שמיני עצרת
 בו הזמן עצר מלכת
 שועלים חיבלו בכרם
 לקחו תגוף אך לא תצלם
 ואז תוך כדי ההלם
 הרבנו טוב הגדלנו חסד
 גם ברזל וגם חרב
 ותפילות בבית כנסת

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מילים: ישי ריבו
 לחן: מאור שושן וישי ריבו

Until all of the tears, the pain. that ripped from my heart
 Will not return empty handed
 Orchard fields of truth -
 A harmonica and a piano will play for their arrival

עד שכל הדמעות הכאב שבקעו מהלב
 לא ישובו ריקם
 שדות פרדסים של אמת
 מפוחית ופסנתר ינגנו את בואם

Strengthen us today
 Bless us today
 Raise us today
 Seek goodness for us

היום תאמצינו
 היום תברכינו
 היום תגדלנו
 תדרשנו לטובה

Honor us today
 Love us today
 Rescue us today
 Rescue us from all the evil

היום תכבדנו
 היום תלבבנו
 היום תמלטנו
 תמלטנו מכל רע

Have mercy on us today
 Look over our soldiers
 Return our captives
 Find us comfort..

היום תרחמינו
 שמור על חיילנו
 השב את שבויינו
 המצא לנו נחמה..

All of the tears, the pain, that burned my heart
 Will still grow into a world
 Orchard fields of truth, anemone flowers, and almond
 trees are now returning

עד שכל הדמעות הכאב ששרפו את הלב
 יצמיחו עולם
 שדות פרדסים של אמת כלנית ושקד
 עכשיו פורחים לשובם

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Anemone flowers and almond trees will
return to bloom

כלנית ושקד יפרחו לשובם

Why do you think Ribo specifically chose to mention the kalanit and the shaken?
What is special about them? What might they symbolize?

Foxes destroyed vineyards

שועלים חיבלו בכרם

This line seems to make reference to the biblical verse: "Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes, that ruin the vineyards, that are in bloom" (Shir Hashirim, 2:15).
Who are the "foxes" and what is the "vineyard" in this metaphor?

Both iron and a sword
And prayers in the synagogue

**גם ברזל וגם חרב
ותפילות בבית כנסת**

What are the two types of "battle" that the song is referring to?
Do you believe that both prayer and military are necessary and effective in this fight?

We multiplied goodness, we increased
kindness

הרבנו טוב הגדלנו חסד

The song refers to the increase in "chesed" that was displayed during the war?
Did you experience this? What examples are you familiar with?

Strengthen us today
Bless us today
Raise us today
Seek goodness for us

**היום תאמצינו
היום תברכינו
היום תגדלנו
תדרשנו לטובה**

Why do you think the song includes this prayer, which is an excerpt from the high holiday machzor? What do you notice about the first letter in each verb?