

Lesson 01 · LESSON PLAN

“Mira”

Ages 12 and up · 45 minutes · The children of the Holocaust

"Mira was her name. From the town of Łódź she came. She was just a little girl, in her happy childish whirl."

THE STORY BEHIND IT

Mira was Cecelia's aunt, the youngest child of the Bik family of Łódź. She was taken to Auschwitz as a child and murdered there. Cecelia was born after the war, into the space Mira left, and wrote this song so that her aunt would have something more than a date. The melody was recorded by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach.

THE HISTORY TO TEACH ALONGSIDE IT

Approximately 1.5 million Jewish children were murdered in the Holocaust. Łódź held the second largest ghetto in occupied Poland and was liquidated in August 1944, with most of its remaining population deported to Auschwitz Birkenau.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CLASS

- The song gives us a name, a town and one image of a girl playing. Why might that reach us more than the number 1.5 million?
- Cecelia never met Mira. What does it mean to grieve someone you never knew?
- What would you want written about you, if only four lines survived?

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8J-AEZMpT0>

CLASSROOM NOTES
