

Text #1:

Definition of Identity:

Identity is what connects people to each other, to communities, and to the land. The exploration of **one's identity** includes developing an **understanding** of **one's** place in the world in addition to being able to identify all the factors that contribute to how people see themselves.

Text #2:

Definition of Jewish Identity:

Jewish identity is the objective or subjective state of perceiving oneself as a Jew and as relating to being Jewish. Under a broader definition, Jewish identity does not depend on whether a person is regarded as a Jew by others, or by an external set of religious, or legal, or sociological norms. Jewish identity can be cultural, religious, and/or through ancestry. There are religious, cultural, and ancestral components to Jewish identity due to its fundamental non-proselytizing nature, as opposed to Christian or Muslim identity which are both "universal" religions in that they ascribe to the notion that their faith is meant to be spread throughout all of humanity, regardless of nationality.

Text #3:

...If we wish to know about a person, we ask what is his story--his/ her real, inmost story? For each of us is a biography, a story. Each of us is a single narrative, which is constructed, continually, unconsciously, by, through, and in us--through our perceptions, our feelings, our thoughts, our actions; and, not least, our discourse, our spoken narration. Biologically, physiologically, we are not so different from each other; historically, we are each of us unique.

- Oliver Sacks, Jewish neurologist and author

Thought Q: Think about an example of an experience or an event that shaped who you are and became part of your "story." How did it make you a "unique" person? Does not need to be Jewish specific.

Text #4:

In every generation one is obligated to see oneself as if s/he had gone out of Egypt. For it says [in the Torah, the Book of Exodus] "And you are to tell your child on that day, saying: It is because of what God did for me, when I went out of Egypt."

- The Passover Haggadah

Thought Q: What is the benefit, do you think, of personalizing the Exodus experience? Who benefits? In what ways?

If we all share in the "memory" of this experience, how might that make us, as a people, unique and or what is the value of tying together our own individual stories/ identities?