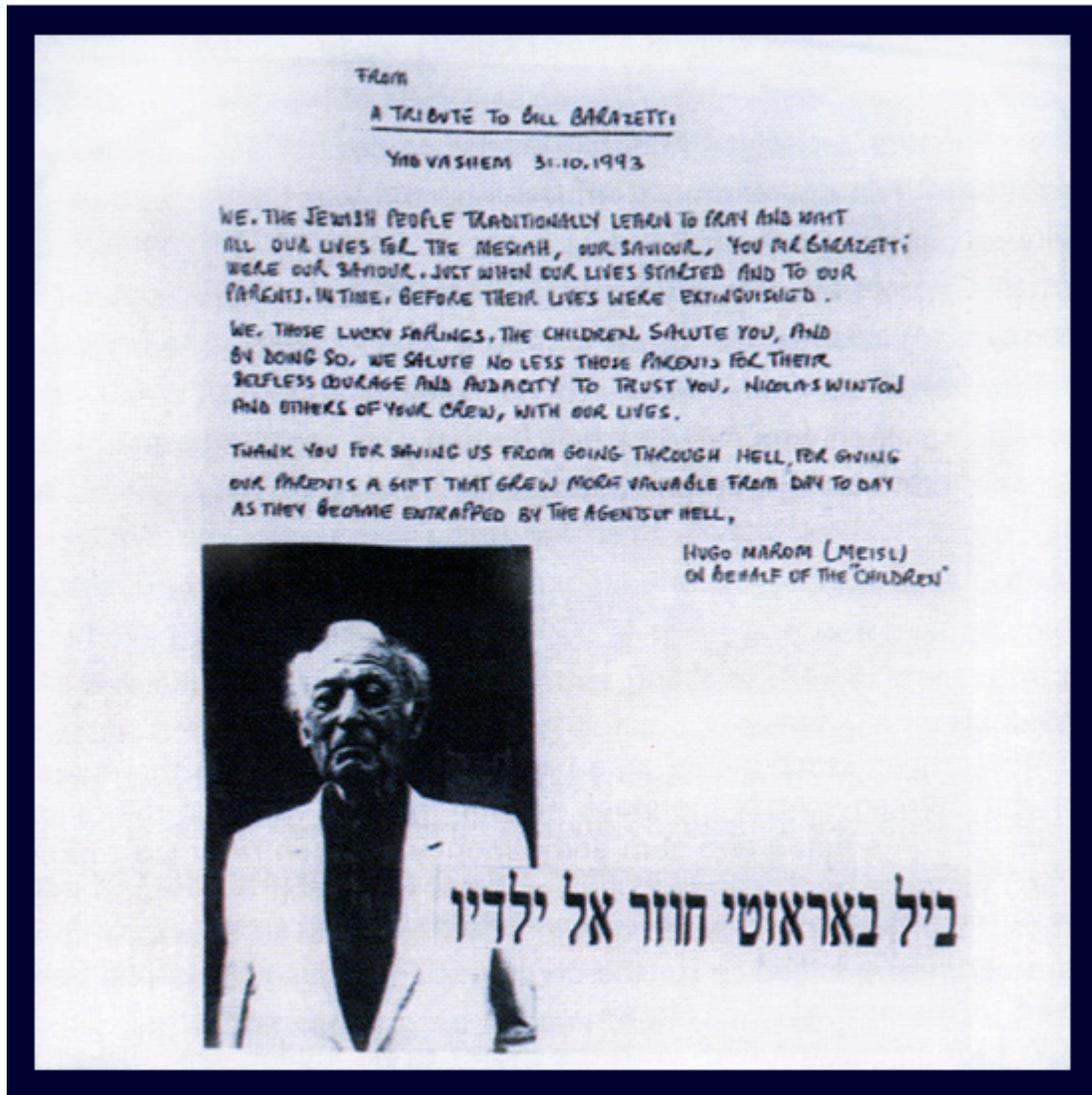


# The Power Of One

## A Middle School and/or High School Lesson Plan



Quilt 3, Square 2

Hugo Marom (Meisl)

## Objectives

Students will be able to define hero.

Students will be able to explain the phrase, “The Power of One.”

Students will be able to list at least 5 people who have made a difference in our world.

Students will be able to compare different kinds of heroes.

Students will be able to discuss whether or not it is possible for one person to make a difference in the world.

Students will be able to identify problems in the world that need fixing and discuss ways they could help fix them.

## Materials

CD of the introduction to Superman. Can be found on i-tunes. (optional)

Graphic novel of Superman (optional)

Newspapers, news magazines, computers (optional)

Hallmark Hall of Fame video of Irena Sendler – comes with a lesson plan – go to [www.hallmarkhallof fame.com](http://www.hallmarkhallof fame.com) Click on the box entitled **For Teachers**. Find the listing for “The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler.”

## Procedures

Play the introduction to Superman, show students a copy of a graphic novel of Superman or just write the word *Superman* on the board.

Ask students to identify the music or to explain who Superman is.

Ask students to list the personal characteristics of Superman. This can be done in 3 minutes individually or in pairs.

Share the lists and write the characteristics on the board.

Ask if superman is a hero.

Ask if you have to save people to be a hero.

Ask students what kinds of heroes there are. What do heroes do? Are there any heroes today? Can kids be heroes? Do heroes have to be famous?

Come up with a class definition of hero. These can be done together, individually or in pairs.

Write *The Power of One* on the board.

Ask students if they are familiar with this phrase and what they think it means.

Discuss the idea that it is possible for one person to make a difference in the world. (This might be a good time to show the video of Irena Sendler)

Ask students if they can think of anyone who has made a difference in the world.

List the names of the people students suggest.

For homework have students find some other people they think made a difference in the world. Tell them to bring in at least two names of people who made a difference in the world and be prepared to explain how they did it.

Share the names students brought in.

Tell students to look at the way they defined “hero.” Ask them if these people who made a difference were heroes.

Hand out a list of people students may not be familiar with who have made a difference. (A list of people can be found under the Projects and Ideas link.) Tell students to pick a person to research. They should find out the following information:

Who was this person?

Where did he or she live?

What was the person’s profession?

What were his or her interests?

What was this person like, personal traits?

What did he or she do?

What problems had to be solved?

How were those problems resolved?

Students should present their information to the class in one of the following ways:

Power point presentation

Mural of the person’s life and work

Song about the person and his work

Poem about the person and his work

Collage with pieces representing the person and his work

Oral report on the person and his work

Animated strip of the person and his work.

Ask the class to think about our world. Ask them to list some of the problems we face today.

Pass out newspapers and magazines and let students look up news articles on the computer.

Ask if they found any other problems to add to the list of the world’s problems.

Put a complete list of the problems on the board.

Divide the class into small groups.

Tell students to choose a problem that interests them and to brainstorm ways it could be solved and ways they could help solve it. Tell students to write down the problem they chose and list their ideas for solutions. These could be as simple as having a school adopt a homeless shelter and having each class pick a day to provide a meal for the shelter residents.

It could be as complex as figuring out how to stop kids from dropping out of school or what to do about illegal immigration.

Have each group present its ideas to the class.

If it is possible, have each group present its ideas to an institution, agency or person in power who could turn them into reality.

If you think it is appropriate, or if your school has a service requirement, hand out a list of organizations that need volunteers and could use students who want to make a difference. Encourage your students to make a difference.