

LESSON PLAN

# **THE STORY OF HAVKA FOLMAN RABAN**

**A Courier in the Ghetto and an  
Educator with a Message for the  
Future**



English



Israel



Biographies



14-20



60 min

## LESSON PLAN

# The Story of Havka Folman Raban

A Courier in the Ghetto and an Educator with a Message for the Future



## Objectives

Participants will become familiar with the story of Havka Folman Raban — her childhood in a Zionist home in Warsaw, her underground resistance work as a member of the “Dror” youth movement, her survival in Auschwitz, immigration to Israel, the founding of the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz, and her educational work promoting humanistic Zionist values in light of the Holocaust.

## Video Link

Yigal Cohen, CEO of the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum, speaks about Havka's legacy in the museum exhibitions.

[https://www.tiktok.com/@gehtto\\_fighters/video/7506967974264229127](https://www.tiktok.com/@gehtto_fighters/video/7506967974264229127)

The video portrays Havka as a Jewish girl growing up in Warsaw, operating as a courier under a false identity, participating in resistance activity against Nazi officers during the “Cygnaria Night,” being sent to Auschwitz as a Polish prisoner, immigrating to Israel, founding the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz, and working as an educator meeting with many youth groups to promote Zionist and humanistic values.

## Lesson Plan

### Opening

 10 min

- **Viewing Task:** Students will watch the TikTok video and be asked to focus on a guiding question (they can write their answers on paper or on a note in their phones):  
*What are the key milestones in Havka Folman Raban's life?*
- The teacher will write students' answers on the board, organize them chronologically, and ensure students understand the relevant terms: Auschwitz concentration camp, Warsaw Ghetto, Dror Youth Movement, underground couriers, Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz, Ghetto Fighters' House Museum.

### Main Activity

 40 min

#### Video Viewing in Four Groups:

Each group watches a different section of the film about Havka's life, each focusing on a specific theme:

#### Viewing Task (5 minutes):

The teacher will guide students using the following questions:

- What active role did Havka take in the part you watched?
- What risks did she face in this action?
- How did this action impact those around her?

#### Video Link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g\\_hCYqdiDCo&t=27s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_hCYqdiDCo&t=27s)

#### Video Segments:

1. **Start – 4:15 min**  
*Youth Rebellion* – Havka's activity in the Dror commune in Warsaw
2. **4:15 – 7:50 min**  
*Underground Courier* – Havka's work in the Dror underground until her arrest after Cygnaria Night
3. **7:50 – 14:00 min**  
*Auschwitz Prisoner* – Havka survives Auschwitz under a false Polish identity
4. **14:00 – End**  
*Message for the Future* – Havka immigrates to Israel, helps establish the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz, and dedicates herself to education and youth engagement

## Follow-up Activity



20 min

### Visual Representation

After viewing the video, each group will answer the guiding questions and create a **visual representation** based on their discussion.

The representation should include an image/design that reflects the active role Havka played – as a girl, a courier, a prisoner, and a pioneer.

## Class Discussion



10 min

### Presentation

Each group will choose a representative to present what can be seen in the exhibit they prepared and explain the message they intended to convey through their design.

The teacher will organize the representations chronologically and match key terms to the images together with the students: Auschwitz concentration camp, Warsaw Ghetto, Dror Youth Movement, underground courier, Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz.

## Conclusion



15 min

The teacher will ask:

- *If you met Havka today, what would you ask her? What do you think she would answer?*

Students will share something new they learned from the activity and give an example from their own lives of an **active initiative** young people can take today.

## Official Websites for research:

<https://www.gfh.org.il/eng/Archive>

<https://www.auschwitz.org/en/museum/archives/collection/>



Catalog No. 53909

Chavka Folman - Raban, a member of Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetat.

Photographed in 1949.

Note:

Chavka Folman - Raban was born in 1924 in Kielce. She was a counselor in the Dror youth movement and a ZOB courier throughout the area of the Generalgouvernement in Poland. In Krakow, she was the courier for Yitzhak Zuckerman on December 22, 1942, the day when the local Jewish underground attacked the Cafe Cyganeria and other German targets. She was arrested and imprisoned as a Christian, and then deported to Auschwitz.

Chavka Folman - Raban survived the Holocaust. She was a member of Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetat and worked in the Education Center at the Ghetto Fighters' House. She died on 9 January 2014.

See:

- 1) Lubetkin, Zivia, "In the Days of Destruction and Revolt", Israel: Beit Lohamei Haghetat, 1981
- 2) Zuckerman, Yitzhak "Antek", "A Surplus of Memory: Chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising", Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993



Catalog No. 23866

Chavka Folman - Raban in Auschwitz.



Catalog No. 53906

Chavka Folman - Raban guiding a group of youth in the Ghetto Fighters' House permanent museum exhibition, "The Warsaw Ghetto Fights Back"