

I have a dream...

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams” Eleanor Roosevelt

The song ‘I Dreamed a Dream’ from the opera Les Miserables was the initial provocation for the Year 1 children’s interest in dreams. The song depicts the journey of a woman looking back on her dreams as a child. She wonders what had happened to her dreams. The children heard the song being sung by a senior Bialik student and were thoroughly engaged with the performance. After the performance one of the students talked about her interpretation of the song:

I think the song was about a girl who has a dream. A dream is something that you want to happen but might not necessarily happen.

This made me wonder, were there opportunities for dreaming in our curriculum? What would or could these opportunities look like? How do we create an environment where they feel safe or encouraged to dream?

We began to investigate what it meant to be a ‘dreamer’. We looked at ‘famous dreamers’ from our past. We spoke about the life of Martin Luther King and how he

dreamed of change. The children viewed, read and listened to his most famous speech, ‘I have a dream’ and began to discuss what it meant to be a ‘dreamer’:

A dreamer wants to change something.

If something isn’t right and you don’t like it - you could dream it wouldn’t happen.

Dreaming means you wish something better will happen.

The children began to discuss and identify that dreaming was an important factor in change and progress. They drew what their dreams were for our global community. When asked what their personal dreams were for the future most cited a career. As they drew their dreams they discussed their ideas with each other and myself.

The children were asked to imagine and hypothesise how dreams were made. Many of the children drew their brain. They cited thinking, imagining and reflecting when explaining their hypothesis.

