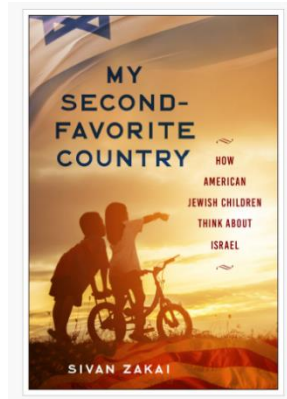


Educator Book Club

Discussion Questions



1. In *My Second-Favorite Country: How American Jewish Children Think about Israel*, Zakai's central claim is that young Jewish children have profound ideas and beliefs about their communities and the broader world. What are three "big ideas" that the children in this book hold, and why do these ideas matter for the work of education?
2. Zakai followed the children in this book over the course of many years to understand how their ideas, beliefs, and opinions developed over time. What ideas about children's development have you learned or relearned by "watching" the children in this book grow up?
3. What was the most interesting story or quotation from a child that you read in this book? Why did that story or quotation strike you as interesting?
4. What most surprised or troubled you about the stories of children in this book? Why did you find these stories troubling or unsettling?
5. Many of the children in Zakai's study voice an explicit challenge to educators, claiming "you never told me" important information. How do you respond to children's critiques of their educators?
6. What about your (or your institution's) educational approach do you want to double down on after reading this book? Why?
7. What about your (or your institution's) educational approach do you want to rethink or restructure after reading this book? Why?
8. What's one question you'd like to ask the children in your institution after reading this book?

