

My final project expresses how I can refract and learn about my individuality through the structure of religion. The Jewish community brings its members together with a foundation of shared values while simultaneously appreciating the unique qualities of each person. As the community unpacks stories from the Torah, individuals are encouraged to find personal meaning within the text by reevaluating their previous conceptions. I use traditional Jewish colors of white and blue throughout the different pieces. These colors are associated with divinity, peace, purity, and light in Judaism. I incorporate pink stitching and pieces of fabric peeking through to represent myself. The blue, white, and pink represent my relationship with Judaism. The necklace shows the word **אמת** (emmet), which means *truth*. This is the first word I remember learning from my fifth-grade teacher at Hebrew school. This word marks the beginning of my journey with Judaism and a reminder to stay critical and curious in the lessons I am taught. Similarly, I include a quote from Hillel, a Jewish philosopher, "If I'm not for myself, who will be for me." Hillel highlights the importance of authenticity and confidence, two things that my community has encouraged and that I strive for. My clothing demonstrates how Judaism asks questions that allow me to learn more about myself. As a result, I have an outfit that blends my personal style with a collection of experiences at synagogue.

My work questions the extent to which religion should be manipulated for optimal benefit of an individual. I include statements from the Torah and notorious Jewish philosophers that many Jewish people believe in but often interpret in different ways. While the application of beliefs may vary from person to person, it offers a place of self reflection that challenges individuals to look deeper within themselves.

## JEWISH GIRL IN A BIG WORLD

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