

HEVRUTA ASSIGNMENT

1. A Game of Fours

The poem is, mostly, very symmetrical. Note how each stanza has four lines, and each line has four beats. Bracket the fifth stanza (S5) for a moment. How do S1-4 divide? If two and four are the organizing scheme of the poem, what do you make of S5, which breaks that pattern?

2. What is the meaning of שוב לפניי? What kind of mental or physical event is being introduced by these words?
 3. Each stanza—again, except for the fifth—describes a central image. What is that image for each stanza, and is there a progression among them?
 4. How do you parse the title of the poem?
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PREP ASSIGNMENT FOR SEPT. 19

1. Practice the proper pronunciation of the poem and be prepared to read aloud. For Sept. 26, you will be asked to memorize and enunciate the first three stanzas.
2. Prepare the poem; look up words you don't know. Think about the ending: Does the last sentence have closure?
3. We are going to focus on the dynamics of literary allusion. Bring to class either a full Tanakh or have the equivalent on your laptop.