

Discussion Points for Students about the Centropa Film on Matilda Albuhaire



On the following pages you will find two kinds of questions: some are multiple choice (with only one correct response!); the others, however, are a bit more complex. You will have to do some research and summarize your results in a few sentences. For the research part, consult the Study Guide that accompanies the film (under <http://centropastudent.org/?fLang=ENG&nID=79&movID=26&guideID=25>).

1) *In 1882, Matilda's grandfather Yacov moved to Bourgas (Bulgaria) with his son. Where did he live before?*

- a) Ankara
- b) Istanbul
- c) Plovdiv
- d) Tirana

2) *Yacov's second first name – Mercado – means "purchased by another family" in...*

- a) Turkish
- b) Hebrew
- c) Ladino
- d) Yiddish

3) *Many of the so-called Sephardic Jews spoke this language. Find out more about the Sephardim and their language! There is an article on about Sephardim in the Jewish Virtual Library that will be helpful in this context (you will find the link in the Study Guide).*

4) *Matilda explains that Bourgas was special. Why?*

- a) Because there was a Turkish bath.
- b) Because there were so many Jews living in Bourgas.
- c) Because there were so many Jewish schools.
- d) Because there were so many different cultures living together.

5) *At that time, there were many different Jewish organizations in Bourgas. Matilda mentions three of them; which one of the following is not mentioned in the film?*

- a) Hashomer Hatzair
- b) Betar
- c) B'nai B'rith
- d) Maccabi

6) *Take a look at the websites of these three organizations (you will find the links in the study guide under "Links to Articles on Jewish History and Life"). Describe them in 2-3 sentences each.*

7) *Matilda explains that Jewish life in Bulgaria was re-built after the political changes in 1989. Which political changes does she refer to, and how was the situation for the Jewish population in Bulgaria before 1989? In the Study Guide, you will find a link to a Jewish Virtual Library website about Jewish history in Bulgaria.*