Begin by looking closely at yourself in a mirror. What do you see? What do you want to show about yourself through your self-portrait? You can even communicate something about your family and community in your picture. For example, do you have your grandmother’s curly hair? What activity will you draw yourself doing? A self-portrait is a reflection of who you are, and you are more than just the way you look.

Feeling Reflective

On their first day in Casablanca, Estrella and Yosef are anxious. They compare themselves to the new people they see, and they begin to doubt their own worth. They even wonder if they are still loved! Big changes can be exciting, but they can also make us feel insecure. Stability in our relationships, family, and community can help us feel okay about ourselves even as things shift around. When we look in the mirror, we often see only one aspect of ourselves. Sometimes other people can see our qualities more clearly. Even the rabbi sees himself differently by the end of this story.

Meet Me in Morocco

The Atlas Mountains, the open-air market, the wishes of mazal bueno (“congratulations” in Ladino, the traditional language of Spanish and Portuguese Jews) — all are hints that we are in Morocco. Jews settled in Morocco soon after the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE, and the population grew substantially after the Spanish Inquisition, when many Spanish and Portuguese Jews moved to North Africa and elsewhere. After the