

4: Poem excerpt from Y. Y. Shvarts's "Yunge Yorn," 1952, Yiddish with English translation, and audio excerpt of the poem being read aloud.

A Jew, a father and a well-off gentleman
Came home that evening from his prayers
And lingered at the menorah
Chanting the blessings
Singing out Chanukah melodies
After a while he walked across the room
Stroked his beard
And spoke out loud to himself
Noting that the young folks burned with excitement like coals aflame
Waiting for their Chanukah gelt. A comedy ensued.
When the impatient children had nearly burst into tears
He plunged his hands into his deep pockets
And slowly pulled out the bundle
Clinking the coins together. He sat down
To talk business with the children.
He knew what he was doing.
How could the children stand the anticipation?
He gave them good advice
And throughout the negotiations
He hid his smile.