

## “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-RILFygCkk>

### Behind the Meaning (המשמעות)

The inspiration for this song goes back to the 1800s. In a love story from *Reader's Digest*, a soldier comes home from the Civil War (מלחת האזרחים). He told his girlfriend in a letter, 'I'll understand if you want me to stay on the stagecoach (כירכרה). But if you want me to get off, tie a big yellow handkerchief on the big oak tree outside of our city. And then I'll know if it's there, I should get off, but I'll understand that you found someone else in the last three years'.

Over 100 years later, in 1972, a song was released (יצא) about a man who spent three long years in prison is now trying to understand if his girlfriend still wants him in her life. For him, the yellow ribbon is a sign (סימן) if his girlfriend wants him back. The man peeks out the bus window and sees 100 ribbons tied around the tree!

### American Hostages in Iran

In 1979, the new regime (משטר) in Iran took 52 Americans hostage and held them for 444 days. While they were held hostage, many Americans tied yellow ribbons around trees and did not remove (להוריד) them until the hostages returned home.

### The Yellow Ribbon in Israel Today

This past year, we have seen the yellow ribbon here in Israel, usually hanging from car doors or mirrors. This was in response (בתגובה ל-) to the hostages who were kidnapped and taken to Gaza on Oct. 7, 2023. The strange thing is: very few Israelis understand this unusual tradition. Now you are among the few who understand it!

**Questions:**

1. The tradition of tying a yellow ribbon around a tree began from a song.

**TRUE      OR      FALSE**

2. In the original story, tying a yellow ribbon around a tree meant that the character should stay on the stagecoach.

**TRUE      OR      FALSE**

3. The 100 ribbons in the song represent the girlfriend answering with:

- a. A resounding "no"
- b. A "no"
- c. A resounding "yes"
- d. A "yes"

4. The American hostages were held in Iran for:

- a. Less than a year
- b. More than a year
- c. 44 days
- d. none of the answers are correct

5. The tradition of tying a yellow ribbon around a tree is only an American tradition.

**TRUE      OR      FALSE**