What do you want to be when you grow up? It’s a question every grownup asks. And there’s a good reason: everyone has a dream.

From the time he was young boy, Yossi Leshem wanted to fly with the birds. As a grownup, Yossi made his passion into a career as one of the world’s leading experts on birds, their migration patterns and habits. He has also helped save the lives of thousands of birds and humans through his research into bird migratory patterns. Yossi made his childhood fantasy into his life’s work because he dared to dream.

Activity

Think about something you really enjoy doing. Is this something you want to do forever? Could you imagine making your passion into a career?

1. Hand each student two outlines of people with three sections to fill in. Next to the person’s head, there should be a space labeled “Think”; next to the heart, a space labeled “Feel”; and next to the feet, a space labeled “Do.”
2. Ask students to fill in the first sheet using Yossi as an example. Ask, What did Yossi think and feel that led him to “Do?” What was he passionate about? What led him to take action and how did he impact the world through his actions?
3. After the students fill in the image, discuss their outline of Yossi as a class or in smaller groups. Ask, what inspired Yossi to take the final steps and act on his passion? What challenges do you think he faced? How do you think he overcame those challenges?
4. Then ask the students to fill in the second sheet about themselves. Tell the students to think about the following questions as they fill out their outline: What are you passionate about? What causes or future careers do you often think about? How do they make you feel? What actions do you plan to take? How can you change the world by “doing” something about your passions? What challenges may you face in reaching your goals and how may you overcome them?