



LITERATURE CONNECTIONS

Thread by Thread

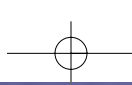
OVER THE PAST 60 YEARS, wars in Southwest Asia have left a bitter legacy of anger, frustration, and despair. Despite continuing conflicts, however, many people in the region share a hope for peace. The author of this poem, Bracha Serri, believes that one day peace will be achieved.

Thread by thread
knot by knot
like colonies of ants
we weave a bridge

Thread by thread
piece by piece
knitting embroidering
sewing decorating
thread by thread
we weave
the map of conciliation.¹

1. Friendship.





Rachel's is white
Yemima's purple
Amal's is green
Salima's rose-colored
thread by thread
we stitch together
torn hearts
bind the map of conciliation.

I pray for the life of Ami and Nitsi
you pray for Ilan, Shoshi and Itsik
and she prays
for Jehan, Asheraf and Fahed
with the same tear.
Word and another word
prayer and another prayer
and our heart is one
we embroider in hope
with the sisterhood of workers
a map of love
to tear down the borders . . .

Reading THE LITERATURE

What technique does the poet use to let the reader know that the "weavers" are people from different countries or ethnic backgrounds? Why is that important?

Thinking About THE LITERATURE

Why do you think this poem is called "Thread by Thread"? What do the threads represent? Who are the weavers and what are they making?

Writing About THE LITERATURE

Describe how you think the finished cloth would look. What size and shape would it be? What colors would it have in it? Where would it be placed or displayed?

About the Author

Bracha Serri, born in Yemen, grew up speaking Arabic. Later, her family moved to Israel. Serri has written, "I want my childhood spoken language, Arabic, to come together with my university education in linguistics. . . . I feel I have written my poems for women who do not have a voice, who can't speak up for themselves."

Further Reading *The Space Between Our Footsteps*, edited by Naomi Shihab Nye, contains poems by more than 100 poets and artists from 19 Southwest Asian countries.

