

Why do we re-read the torah every year? I mean, it's the same book! Doesn't it get a little repetitive sometimes? Or why do we have a history class? What is the point of learning about something that no longer exists? And don't forget about holidays, good, happy, bad, sad. Why do we dedicate specific days just to remember something that has happened a long time ago? Hello, my name is Eva Dobrovolska and today I am here to talk to you about the importance of preserving history. Many people think that history is nothing but a book without any magic or exciting superhero action in it. It is that one class in school that is designed to make math seem exciting by comparison. I hate to break it to you, but that is not what history is for. Let me ask you this; have you ever heard something similar to; "Every day there's a lesson to be learned." Or have your parents ever told you "I'm telling you this because I do not want you to make the same mistakes as I did." So why do we need to learn history? Why is it important to stay connected to your Jewish roots? Why do people care? You see; history makes us strong. It provides us with knowledge of the past and enables us to make the right decisions in the future. Our holidays, traditions, and stories give us our identities. We read the Torah because it is our history. It is what makes us Jewish, defines our lives, and shapes everything that surrounds us. History is an ever expanding domino set. Every event is a domino

carefully placed one after the other. Knock one over, and they could all tumble down. The thing is, not all history is good. Events such as the Holocaust and 9-11 are not something to joke about. In such cases our obligation is to learn as much as we can about these horrible times and never forget. For if we do, even if for just one second we would be allowing the great risk of such events to repeat. Never again, must we watch innocent people jump to their death from a burning skyscraper. Never again, will we allow people be sold as slaves because of their skin colour. And never again, must we witness over 6 million striped of their identities and killed in the most inhumane ways possible all because their faith. Those who argue that history is unimportant are wrong. It is more than just a pile of old stories. Weather it is of your family, your country, your religion, or the world, it is the greatest knowledge one can ever possess. This is why we commemorate holidays, why we have a history class, and why we re-read the torah. We do it because it is important. It can make us cry, laugh, and think all at once. So whoever you are, hold on to your history as tight as you can. Use it as your guidance of life, your inspiration. For it is humanities' one true burden.