

Children in the Holocaust

Rationale:

This course will provide an opportunity for participants to explore the subject of children in the Holocaust through primary sources, secondary sources, testimonies, videos and group discussions. The course will expose the educators to real-life experiences of children in the Holocaust that then can be related to their students. The subject will build empathy, understanding and compassion for many cultures who have gone through separation, loss and difficult challenges.

Course Goal:

Provide information about children who experienced the Holocaust during 1933-1945. This course will demonstrate how children can be impacted by traumatic events.

Course Objectives:

1. Teachers will learn information about children who experienced the Holocaust
2. Teachers will be able to share information about Kindertransport, Children in the Resistance Movements and Theresienstadt
3. Teachers will become familiar with resources such as the IWitness Program, Holocaust fiction and poetry
4. Teachers will be able to identify Holocaust imagery in various literary works
5. Teachers will be able to access primary sources such as journals, testimonies and diaries

Course Description:

Children in the Holocaust will provide an in-depth look at how children experienced the Holocaust and give educators an opportunity to relate the subject to other tragedies.

Topics covered will be:

- Kindertransport
- Theresienstadt
- Children in the Resistance
- Diaries, Journals and Memoirs of children and young adults

Students will be introduced to survivors who were on the Kindertransport, artwork of children in the resistance, and books and materials about children in the Holocaust that can be used in a classroom setting.

Specifically the class will learn about Sir Nicholas Winton, and they will read and analyze I ***Never Saw Another Butterfly and Brundibar***.

Course Outline:

- **Session I – Kindertransport (Total of 3.75 hours of instructional time)**
 - Panel of Kindertransport survivors
 - BBC film on Sir Nicholas Winton, ***Nicky's Family***
 - **Break (15 minutes)**
 - Learning Centers
 - Center 1 Artifacts
 - What would you take in your suitcase?

- Center 2
 - Follow a family using ***IWitness*** and other primary source materials
 - Find out how the Holocaust affected a specific survivor
 - Center 3
 - Poetry by children of the Holocaust. Explore different poems by children of different ages in a variety of formats.
 - Review and wrap up
- **Session II – Theresienstadt (Terezin)**
 - Whole Group Activity
 - Each teacher will select a poem or imagery from ***I Never Saw Another Butterfly*** and discuss with the group its personal relevance to each participant.
 - Readers Theatre (1 hour)
 - ***Cat With the Yellow Star***
 - **Break (15 minutes)**
 - Small Group Activity:
 - Center 1
 - ***Bundibar*** Opera
 - You Tube excerpts
 - Maurice Sendak and Tony Kushner’s work
 - Center 2
 - Discover Holocaust Imagery in Maurice Sendak’s work
 - Center 3
 - Theresienstadt: Primary resources (Photos, News articles)
 - Review and Wrap Up
- **Session III - Children in Resistance**
 - Miriam Brysk and her artwork
 - *IWitness* /Teen Resisters tell their stories
 - Boys who produced *Vedem* Newsletter from ***We Were Children Just the Same*** (
 - Selected readings from ***Uncle Misha’s Partisans***
 - **Break (15 minutes)**
 - Resistance and Bullying today
 - ADL – Guest Presenter
- **Session IV - Children’s journals, testimonies and diaries**
 - Readers theatre of ***Yad VeYeled*** and ***The Children We Remember***
 - Review of ***Salvaged Pages*** and accompanying lesson plans
 - Anne Frank as a diary, play, movie, ballet
 - **Break (15 minutes)**
 - Teachers will choose one section of ***Diaries of Children of WW II*** and work with a cooperative learning group to prepare a presentation of the excerpt along with ideas for using it in a classroom setting