

Holocaust Literature Studies: Using Allegories and Picture Books

Rationale:

This course will provide an opportunity for participants to identify and explore allegories and picture books in the study of the Holocaust.

Course Goal:

Provide information and support for educators to introduce literature that will lead to better understanding of those who experienced the Holocaust and other traumatic events.

Course Objectives:

1. Teachers will develop confidence in their ability to teach the subject of the Holocaust
2. Teachers will learn how to prepare students for the study of traumatic events like the Holocaust
3. Teachers will be able to use the information about the topic to provide learning experiences in different modalities for students with varying learning abilities and styles
4. Teachers will be able to share books and materials with their students
5. Teachers will become familiar with literature of Susan Goldman Rubin
6. Teachers will be able to prepare a bibliography of resources
7. Teachers will create and develop lesson plans that will be useful in teaching about the Holocaust through literature
8. Teachers will identify and be able to share allegories written in reference to the Holocaust
9. Teachers will identify universal situations that apply to the themes of prejudice, discrimination, loss and their connection to the Holocaust
10. Teachers will create and develop lesson plans that will be useful in teaching about the Holocaust through allegories

Course Description:

Holocaust Literature Studies: Using Allegories and Picture Books will provide teachers with strategies on how to use available allegories and picture books about the Holocaust.

Topics covered will be:

- Definition and examples of allegories
- How allegories help to identify some of the dilemmas experienced in the Holocaust
- Using picture books about difficult subjects
- Picture book biographies
- Susan Goldman Rubin's body of work as an example of picture books that can be used to teach about the Holocaust

Course Outline:

- **Session I**
 - Class Discussion:
 - What is an allegory?
 - How can using allegories provide students with a greater understanding of the subject?
 - Small Group Discussion:
 - Working with a partner, teachers will develop a list of topics that are themes of Holocaust education, i.e. prejudice, intolerance etc.

- Share the lists with the whole group
 - Film of *The Butter Battle* by Dr. Seuss
 - Examination by teachers of other works by Dr. Seuss
 - **Break – 15 minutes**
 - Share an excerpt from *Briar Rose* by Jane Yolen. Identify some of the symbolism used in the novel. Why is this considered an allegory about the Holocaust?
 - Reader's Theater of *Terrible Things* by Eve Bunting. Compare to the words of Niemoller: "First they came for the communists..."
 - Cooperative Learning
 - Teachers will form groups of four to five people and develop a readers theatre script for a picture book that is an allegory
 - Homework: Teachers will find an example of an allegory not mentioned in the class and bring it to share in second session
- **Session II**
 - Teachers will share the allegories they found for their homework assignment
 - Teachers will view YouTube film of *The Hangman* by Maurice Ogden.
 - Group Activity:
 - Teachers will prepare a Venn Diagram to show similarities and differences between *The Hangman* and *The Terrible Things*
 - Teachers will discuss their findings
 - Read Aloud *The Arabolies of Liberty Street* by Sam Swope
 - Develop questions to ask the author
 - Visit with the author by Skype
 - **Break – 15 minutes**
 - Independent Activity:
 - Teachers will develop a short original allegory
 - Teachers will share their allegories
 - Review and discussion about how information from this class can be used in the classroom
- **Session III**
 - Class Discussion:
 - Why use literature to teach about the Holocaust?
 - Criteria for choosing literature for the classroom
 - Read Around
 - *Fireflies in the Dark*
 - *Irena Sendler*
 - *The Cat With the Yellow Star*
 - *The Anne Frank Case*
 - *The Flag with Fifty-six Stars*
 - *Searching for Anne Frank*
 - *Steven Spielberg His Biography*
 - *Whispering Town*
 - *Angel of Bergen Belsen*
 - *Marcel Marceau*
 - *One Candle*
 - *Promise of a New Spring*
 - *Brundibar*
 - Small Group Activity:
 - Break into seven groups. Each group will be given one of the picture books from the Read Around
 - The book will be read aloud in the group
 - Lesson plans and methodologies will be developed for using the book in a classroom to provide information about the Holocaust

- Teachers will develop a list of materials which can be used in concert with the book
- **Break – 15 minutes**
 - Presentations of the work developed in the small groups by the teachers
- Homework:
 - Read the book *Searching for Anne Frank* and develop study questions to use when teaching
 - Visit the website of Susan Goldman Rubin, award-winning author of picture books for older students, and prepare at least one question to ask her about her work.
- **Session IV – A Visit With the Author**
 - Teachers will meet with Susan Goldman Rubin, award winning author of picture books about the Holocaust
 - Teachers will have a question and answer session with the author
 - Whole Group Activity:
 - Presentation of lesson plans for *Searching for Anne Frank* developed by the teachers
 - Review and Wrap up