

## Holocaust Education English/Language Arts Resources

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## **Getting Started: Holocaust Education in the Classroom**

- [Getting Started Guide \(USHMM\)](#)
  - The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) guide with links and daily suggested lessons regarding how to begin teaching the Holocaust in classrooms.
- [Guidelines for Teaching the Holocaust \(USHMM\)](#)
  - This resource provides teachers overall guidelines on how to accurately teach the Holocaust. It covers how to answer tough questions, how to accurately teach the Holocaust in context, and many other tips for teachers.
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the Holocaust for Educators \(USHMM\)](#)
  - Answers to frequently asked questions teachers may encounter during their teaching.
- [United Nations: Why Teach About the Holocaust](#)
  - A United Nations report on why the Holocaust should be taught in the classroom.
- [The Path to Nazi Genocide \(USHMM\)](#)
  - A roughly half-hour documentary of the events that led to the Holocaust. This could be used as a short introduction to the Holocaust for students.
  - Grade range: 6-12 grades
- [Introduction to the Holocaust \(One Day\)](#)
  - A one day lesson that gives students an overview of the Holocaust.
- [Overview of the Holocaust \(2-4 Days\)](#)

- Lesson plans that provide enough material to cover in 2-4 days as an introductory lesson.
- [USHMM Holocaust Timeline Activity](#)
  - An activity that introduces students to important dates, people, and events in the Holocaust.
- [Preparing a Class to Meet a Holocaust Survivor](#)
  - A list of general guidelines for teachers who invite survivors to speak to their classes.

## Lesson Plan Databases

- [USHMM Teaching Materials By Topic](#)
  - All teaching materials from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum organized by topic. This includes: The Holocaust, Americans in the Holocaust, Antisemitism and Racism, Books and Literature, Nazism and Jim Crow, Primary Sources and Museum Collections, Propaganda, and Roles of Individuals.
- [USHMM Print Materials](#)
  - Downloadable and printable timeline cards, posters, and video request forms.
- [Kindertransport Lesson Plans](#)
  - Lessons specific to the Kindertransport, an effort to rescue children during the Holocaust, organized by grade level.
- [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance](#)
  - Educational materials organized by topic.
- [Holocaust Museum Houston: Lesson Plans](#)
  - Lesson plans organized by topic.

## Research Materials

- [USHMM Holocaust Encyclopedia](#)
  - The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) searchable encyclopedia for research.
- [USHMM Collections Search](#)
  - A searchable database of collections regarding the Holocaust. For more extensive research purposes.
- [USHMM Primary Source Search](#)
  - A primary source search engine for documents related to the Holocaust. For more extensive research purposes.
- [Kindertransport: BBC Article](#)
  - An in-depth article about the children involved in the Kindertransport. Includes an 8 minute video about the Kindertransport.
- [Illinois Holocaust Museum: Survivor Profiles](#)
  - Profiles of several Holocaust survivors.
- [World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust—Our Stories](#)
  - Stories, interviews, and other sources regarding children that lived through the Holocaust.

## **Propaganda**

- [Exploring Nazi Propaganda \(USHMM\)](#)
  - A lesson plan that asks students to reflect on how Nazi propaganda affected society during the Holocaust.
- [Critically Analyze Propaganda](#)
  - A lesson plan in which students analyze Nazi propaganda used during the Holocaust.
- [Analyzing Memes](#)
  - Students analyze memes and their effect on society and compare it to the effect of propaganda during the Holocaust.

## **Genocide**

- [Country Case Studies for Further Research](#)
  - Genocide in history organized by country. An excellent overview that could be used as further research to dispute the claim “never again.”
- [“Children of Rwanda” by Reverend Francois Murenzi](#)
  - A poem about the children during the Rwandan genocide.
- [Modern-Day Genocide, A Study of the Rohingya Minority in Burma](#)
  - An analysis of an exhibit examining the genocide happening in Burma. Could be included in research to prove society has not learned from the past.

## **Anti-Bullying**

- [Holocaust Museum Houston: Upstander Curriculum](#)
  - This program uses individuals from history as examples of why students should stand up for those being bullied. Also includes role rehearsal with scenarios for students to practice. Includes an abundance of material for teachers to choose from.
- [Holocaust Museum Houston: All Behaviors Count Curriculum](#)
  - A program that examines social cruelty (taunting, bullying, spreading rumors, etc.) and social resilience. Includes an abundance of material for teachers to choose from.



## Poetry

- [Poetry from Victims](#)
  - “The Butterfly,” “Homesick,” and “Fear” written by children during their time in concentration camps.
- [“Never Shall I Forget” by Elie Wiesel](#)
  - A short poem from Nobel Prize Winner Elie Wiesel.
- [“Do Not Ask” by Avram Schaufeld](#)
  - A poem about dealing with the struggle of being a Holocaust survivor, and the pain the memories cause him.
- [“First They Came” by Pastor Martin Niemoller](#)
  - A popular poem about standing up against hate.
- [“The Hangman” by Maurice Ogden](#)
  - An allegorical poem about a hangman who comes to town and begins executing citizens one by one.
- [“We Were Children Just Like You” by Yaffa Eliach](#)
  - A poem written by a Holocaust survivor about experiencing the Holocaust as a child. The author makes the poem connect with children today.

## Teaching with Diaries

- [Teaching the Holocaust Through Childrens' Diaries](#)
  - A lesson plan in which students analyze the diaries of five children who lived during the Holocaust.
- [Exploring Holocaust-Era Diaries \(USHMM\)](#)
  - A lesson plan in which students look at the historical and literary aspects of diaries from the Holocaust.
- [Diaries as Historical Sources \(USHMM\)](#)
  - A lesson plan in which students analyze Anne Frank's diary entries for audience, purpose, and historical context.
- [Exploring Anne Frank's Diary \(USHMM\)](#)
  - A lesson plan for analysis of Anne Frank's diary as a literary text. This site also includes the only known video in existence of Anne Frank.

## Non-Fiction Texts

***Note: Not all texts are appropriate for all audiences. Please preview a text before using it with students.***

- *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust* by Livia Bitton-Jackson
  - A memoir of a 13 year old girl's experience in the Holocaust.
  - Grade range: 7-12 grades
- *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
  - A series of diary entries depicting one girl's experience in hiding with her family during the Holocaust.
  - Grade range: 7-12 grades
- *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine
  - A story in which a young person in Tokyo receives artifacts from Auschwitz about Hana, and researches to learn more about Hana's story.
  - Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson
  - A memoir of a ten year old boy who finds himself on Schindler's list.
  - Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *Village of Scoundrels* by Margi Preus
  - A true story of how villagers in a French town saved thousands of Jews.
  - Grade range: 6-9 grades
- *Yellow Star* by Jennifer Roy
  - The story of a young girl who is one of 800 survivors of a ghetto.

- Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children* by Kath Shackleton
  - A graphic novel with six survival stories of children in the Holocaust.
  - Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *Maus: Volume I* by Art Spiegelman:
  - A graphic novel about the author's father's experience in the Holocaust. In this novel, Jews are drawn as mice and Nazis as cats.
  - Grade range: 8-12 grades
- [\*First Person: Conversations with Holocaust Survivors \(Podcast\)\*](#) by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
  - A podcast with experts from over 48 interviews (6-7 minutes long) with Holocaust survivors. The topics vary, and each episode is categorized by event, subject matter, etc.
  - Grade Range: 6-12 grades; age ranges vary depending on the episode.

**Please preview before listening with students.**
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
  - Elie Wiesel's first-person account of his survival in Nazi death camps as a teenager.
  - Grade range: 8-12 grades
- *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust* by Alexandra Zapruder
  - A collection of diary entries from teenagers throughout the Holocaust. Would be best used in excerpts to support previously taught information.

- Grade range: 9-12 grades

## Fiction Texts

***Note: Not all texts are appropriate for all audiences. Please preview a text before using it with students.***

- *The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
  - A teenager who attempts to shed light on Nazi lies with pamphlets and is ultimately jailed.
  - Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
  - A novel that follows three teenagers, Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud as they navigate life as refugees. Josef is a refugee from Germany in 1939 aboard the MS St. Louis, Isabel is a refugee from Cuba in 1994, and Mahmoud is a refugee from Syria in 2015.
  - Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *Girl in the Blue Coat* by Moncia Hesse
  - A girl who is part of the resistance, and ultimately finds herself working to find the whereabouts of a missing Jewish girl.
  - Grade range: 8-12 grades
- *White Bird: A Wonder Story* by R.J. Palacio
  - A graphic novel centering on the story of Julian's (from Wonder) grandmere and her time spent in hiding during the Holocaust.
  - Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *28 Days: A Novel of Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto* by David Safier
  - A novel about a young 16 year old girl's participation in the uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto.

- Grade range: 8-10 grades
- *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
  - The story of a Lithuanian girl who finds herself torn from her home and taken to a Serbian work camp.
  - Grade range: 8-12 grades
- *The Borrowed House* by Hilda Van Stockum
  - The story of a girl who comes to her own realization about the Nazi occupation based on conversations with Dutch friends and her own observations on what is going on around her.
  - Grade range: 9-12 grades
- *Behind the Bedroom Wall* by Laura E Williams
  - A story of a teenage girl who is sympathetic to the Nazi cause, but finds out her parents are part of the resistance, and are hiding a Jewish family in their home.
  - Grade range: 6-8 grades
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
  - A young girl who steals books that are banned by the Nazi regime, and then shares them with her neighbors and a Jewish man her family is hiding.
  - Grade range: 8-12 grades

## Video Resources

- [Behind Every Name, Stories from the Holocaust](#) (USHMM)
  - A lesson plan that asks students to analyze short animations depicting individual experiences during the Holocaust. Each short outlines a different point of view: an American prisoner of war, an American couple that try to rescue Jewish children, two teenage pen pals (one from Pennsylvania; the other from Vienna), a Jewish professor and the Iowa postal worker that helped him, and a Jewish athlete poised to compete in the 1936 Olympics.
  - Grade range: 7-12 grades
  - Run Time: 5-6 minutes each
- [First Person, Conversations with a Holocaust Survivor](#) (USHMM)
  - Students participate in a monthly live conversation with a Holocaust survivor. Previous conversations are available in the YouTube channel linked in this lesson.
  - Grade range: grade level depends on the video. Please preview before showing your students.
  - Run Time: 1 hour each
- [Anne Frank House YouTube Channel](#)
  - Videos about various topics including: background information on Anne Frank, combating antisemitism and prejudice, interviews with Miep Gies (the woman who helped hide Anne Frank), and dramatized videos of what happened to Anne Frank after her arrest.



- Grade range: grade levels depend on the video. Please preview videos before showing your students.
- Run Time: Various lengths depending on the video
- [Eva Unterman, Survivor Testimony](#)
  - A Tulsa, Oklahoman who survived the Holocaust as a young child (from ages 6-12). She outlines her time in the ghetto and concentration camp alongside her mother and grandmother, and ultimately being reunited after the liberation of the camps.
  - Grade range: 6-12 grades
  - Run Time: 51 minutes
- [One Survivor Remembers](#)
  - Gerda Weissman's survivor story based on her book *All but My Life*. She is one of 150 survivors of a three-month long death march towards the end of the war.
  - Grade range: 9-12 grades
  - Run Time: 40 minutes
- [The Many Legacies of Elie Wiesel](#)
  - A video about Elie Wiesel's legacy told by people who knew him best.
  - Grade range: 6-12 grades
  - Run Time: 3 minutes

## Online Databases

- [USC Shoah Foundation: iWitness](#)
  - Hundreds of lessons and activities for students about Holocaust-related content. Teachers can search for lesson plans based on a variety of different topics such as immigration, genocide, bioethics, geography, etc.
- [PBS Resources](#)
  - Lessons, videos, articles, etc. putting the Holocaust in context with current events and modern literature.

## **Virtual Field Trips and Online Exhibits**

- [The Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center Video Tour](#)
  - A video tour of the Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust museum located in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- [USHMM Online Exhibitions](#)
  - The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum online exhibits.
- [USHMM Virtual Field Trip](#)
  - A virtual tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- [Illinois Holocaust Museum: Virtual Teaching Trunks](#)
  - Teaching trunks with artifacts to be explored by students.
- [Illinois Holocaust Museum: Virtual Field Trips](#)
  - A virtual field trip of the Illinois Holocaust Museum.
- [Anne Frank House Virtual Tour](#)
  - A virtual tour of the annex in which Anne Frank, her family, and others hid.
- [Virtual Holocaust Survivor Interviews](#)
  - A unique virtual experience in which students can ask a virtual survivor questions about their experience.