

Using Literature to Teach About the Holocaust

Rationale:

This course will provide an opportunity for participants to identify and explore the various genres of Holocaust literature that are available for middle and high school students.

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 in the genres of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, biographies and memoirs
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 become familiar with grade appropriate websites and support materials
9. Teachers will identify authors of Holocaust literature
10. Teachers will write book reviews of Holocaust literature

Course Description:

Using Literature to Teach the Holocaust will provide an in-depth look at resources available in all genres of literature to teach about the Holocaust. Topics covered will be:

- Fiction, including novels, middle grade, young adult and picture books
- Non-fiction
- Poetry
- Biographies
- Memoirs

Teachers will identify and become familiar with online resources in Holocaust literature.

Course Outline:

- **Session I – Fiction**
 - Each teacher will be provided with a journal to chronicle their reactions to the various pieces of literature that are shared
 - Use a Quick Write to have participants list as many titles of novels about the Holocaust with which they are familiar
 - Class Discussion:
 - Identify, define and give examples of the various types of fiction as they relate to the Holocaust
 - Historical fiction
 - Realistic fiction
 - Picture books
 - Young Adult
 - Science fiction
 - Novels
 - Mixed genre
 - Cooperative Learning
 - Teachers will work with a partner to find works of fiction in the library by at least five different authors
 - Teachers will write an annotated bibliography of the books that are found
- **Break – 15 minutes**
- Readers Theatre – *The Terrible Things* by Eve Bunting
- Class Discussion: Compare and Contrast
 - Discussion of the appropriate use of allegories and symbolism in Holocaust fiction
 - *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
 - *Briar Rose* by Jane Yolen
 - *Ms. Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs
- Read Around:
 - Teachers will spend two minutes evaluating at least 15 books each and then share their impressions with the class
 - *Shadow on the Mountain*
 - *The Winter Horses*
 - *Forced Journey*
 - *Hitler’s Secret*
 - *Mira’s Diary*
 - *Odette’s Secrets*
 - *The Extra*
 - *Making Bombs for Hitler*
 - *Now*
 - *The Berlin Boxing Club*
 - *Between Shades of Gray*
 - *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children*
 - *Snow Treasure*
 - *Room in the Heart*
 - *The Night Spies*
 - *Briar Rose*

- *Soldier X*
 - *The Butterfly*
 - *One Eye Laughing the Other Weeping*
 - *Devil's Arithmetic*
 - *Summer of My German Soldier*
 - *Goodbye Marianne*
 - *Of Heroes, Hooks and Heirlooms*
 - *When Hitler Stole the Pink Rabbit*
 - *I Have Lived a Thousand Years*
 - *After the War*
 - *Dancing on the Bridge of Avignon*
 - *The Winged Watchman*
 - *The Shadow Children*
 - *Jacob's Rescue*
 - *Maus*
 - *Friedrich*
 - *Escape From the Holocaust*
 - *Island on Bird Street*
 - *The Wave*
 - *Upon the Head of a Goat*
- Homework:
 - Teachers will choose one of the books of fiction to check out, read and reflect on in their journals. They will write a book review of their chosen book.
- **Session II – Poetry**
 - Teachers will view the film *The Hangman* by Maurice Ogden
 - Group discussion on use of symbolism, imagery, and other poetic devices
 - Teachers read *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* and choose a piece from the book that speaks to them and read the poem aloud
 - Small group activity:
 - Teachers will list different forms of poetry
 - Teachers will use poetry anthologies to find examples of the different poetic forms
 - **Break – 15 minutes**
 - Teachers will choose a poem about the Holocaust and create an illustration of the selection
 - Teachers will read their poems aloud and explain the symbolism in their drawings
 - Teachers will be given examples on the way in which music and lyrics can be used as examples of Holocaust poetry
 - Whole Group Activity:
 - Write a Found Poem about the Holocaust
 - Homework:
 - Teachers will prepare a Pinterest page of examples of Holocaust poetry
- **Session III – Nonfiction**
 - Teachers suggest ideas for an essential question for this topic
 - Brainstorm titles of nonfiction books teachers have used
 - Classifying nonfiction books by their topics

- Bingo game: Work with a partner to find at least one book in the library for each topic to get a bingo. List title, author, and call number of each book found.
 - Life before
 - Children
 - Rescuers
 - Resistance
 - Ghettos
 - Concentration Camps
 - Kindertransport
 - Hidden Children
 - Nazi soldiers
 - Nuremburg Laws
 - Liberation
 - **Break – 15 minutes**
 - Explore USHMM website (<https://www.ushmm.org/educators>)
 - Teachers choose one nonfiction book from the library and identify the different parts of the book. Share how each of these parts can be used to evaluate the information the book will present and whether it is a valuable resource for a student's chosen topic.
 - Title page
 - Copyright date
 - Table of Contents
 - Index
 - Notes
 - Afterward
 - Foreword
 - Glossary
 - Work with a partner to develop a methodology for teaching how to read nonfiction literature with students. Share ideas with the whole group.
 - **Homework: Write a bibliography with at least three print and two non print nonfiction resources.**
- **Session IV – Biography and Memoirs**
 - Group discussion: Share resources found for the homework assignment
 - Compare and contrast using a Venn diagram: biography and memoir
 - Panel of local survivors who wrote memoirs share their stories
 - **Break – 15 minutes**
 - Watch the DVD of children interviewing Las Vegas Holocaust survivors
 - Book share: Show Powerpoint of Biographies as longer works and as picture books
 - Wrap up and discussion of course