

## Teaching about the Holocaust through English Language Arts Menu (and links)

### Introduction

The following represents suggested unit outlines based on the specific amount of classroom time available. Since schedules, class period length, and the needs of individual classes and students can vary, you may need to make adjustments or accommodations that best fit your students and needs.

### Before you begin

Before beginning any unit or lesson on the Holocaust we highly recommend closely reviewing the [guidelines for teaching about the Holocaust](#), as well as intentionally establishing your [rationale and proposed learning outcomes](#). We also highly encourage creating a safe and respectful learning environment by engaging your students in the “foundations” lesson plans listed below as well considering these [SEL resources](#).

### Recommended Literature

Grade Level-Specific Recommendations (including text-specific context and teacher guides/discussion questions)

*\***Avoid** using texts when teaching about the Holocaust/other genocides that are historically inaccurate or otherwise run afoul of the Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust (see link above), such as The Boy in the Striped Pajamas. For any questions about this, or any other text you are unsure about, please contact us.*

If you have only one to two weeks

Lesson	Approximate time needed	Materials (lesson plans linked below)	
Foundations	2 days	<p><b>Day 1:</b>            Exploring Identity (<a href="#">elementary</a> or <a href="#">secondary</a>)  <a href="#">Universe of Obligation</a></p> <p><b>Day 2:</b>  <a href="#">Pyramid of Hate</a> (including vocab and definition of Holocaust)  <a href="#">Survivor Voices</a> (film)</p>	
The Holocaust	3 days	<p><b>Day 3:</b>  <a href="#">Judaism and Antisemitism</a></p> <p><b>Day 4:</b>  <a href="#">Bearing Witness</a></p>	
Literature	2- 5 Days	<p><b>Elem/Middle</b>            Found Poem <a href="#">Anne Frank</a> or <a href="#">White Bird</a></p>	<p><b>Secondary</b>  <a href="#">Holocaust Diaries</a> or  <a href="#">Music as Resistance</a> or  <a href="#">Poetry</a></p>

If you have three to five weeks

Lesson	Approximate time needed	Materials (lesson plans linked below)	
Foundations	6 days	<p><b>Day 1:</b> Exploring Identity (<a href="#">elementary</a> or <a href="#">secondary</a>) <a href="#">Universe of Obligation</a></p> <p><b>Day 2:</b> <a href="#">Pyramid of Hate</a> (including vocab and definition of Holocaust) <a href="#">Survivor Voices</a> (film)</p> <p><b>Day 3-4:</b> <a href="#">What was the Holocaust: Bearing Witness</a> (2 days)</p> <p><b>Day 5:</b> <a href="#">Judaism &amp; Antisemitism</a></p> <p><b>Day 6:</b> <a href="#">Prewar Jewish Life</a> (<a href="#">Handouts</a>)</p>	
Literature		<p><b>Elem/Middle</b> Text-specific context lesson <b>PLUS</b></p> <p><a href="#">More Than Any Child Should Know</a> <a href="#">Graphic Novel</a> and <a href="#">discussion questions</a> or <a href="#">White Bird</a> and Found Poem</p>	<p><b>Secondary</b> Text-specific context lesson <b>PLUS</b></p> <p><i>Anne Frank Graphic Adaptation</i> and <a href="#">Found Poem</a> or <a href="#">Holocaust Diaries</a> or <a href="#">Music as Resistance</a> or <a href="#">Poetry</a></p>

If you are teaching a Holocaust unit:

Lesson	Approximate time needed	Materials (lesson plans linked below)	
Foundations	6 days	<p><b>Day 1:</b> Exploring Identity (<a href="#">elementary</a> or <a href="#">secondary</a>) <a href="#">Universe of Obligation</a></p> <p><b>Day 2:</b> <a href="#">Pyramid of Hate</a> (including vocab and definition of Holocaust) <a href="#">Survivor Voices</a> (film)</p> <p><b>Day 3-4:</b> <a href="#">What was the Holocaust: Bearing Witness</a> (2 days)</p> <p><b>Day 5:</b> <a href="#">Judaism &amp; Antisemitism</a></p> <p><b>Day 6:</b> <a href="#">Prewar Jewish Life</a> (<a href="#">Handouts</a>)</p>	
Literature		Text-specific context lesson <b>PLUS</b> recommended text (whole class) or texts (literature circles, guided/differentiated, etc.) (see <b>grade level recommendations</b> )	Extension activities/contextualization: <b>Elem/Middle</b> <a href="#">White Bird</a> Found Poem <b>Secondary</b> <a href="#">Holocaust Diaries</a> or <a href="#">Music as Resistance</a> or <a href="#">Poetry</a> or <a href="#">Anne Frank Found Poem</a>

Shorter and/or additional options	Culminating Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Holocaust Diaries and Why Write?</a> (1-2 days)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Music as Resistance during the Holocaust</a> (1-2 days)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Poetry</a> (2-3 days)</li> <li>• Found poem (<a href="#">Anne Frank</a> or <a href="#">White Bird</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Request a speaker</a> (at the HCH, remotely, or at your school)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Book a field trip</a> (at the HCH or virtual – docent can come to your classroom!)</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Writing</u> (explanatory, narrative, argumentative or poetry) or other <u>project-based reflective work</u></li></ul> |
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