

HOLOCAUST RESOURCES

For High School

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TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST

Totten, Samuel and Stephen Feinberg. *Teaching and Studying the Holocaust*. Allyn and Bacon, 2001.

A collection of essays by American Holocaust educators, with chapters on incorporating primary documents, first-person accounts, film, literature, art, and more into a study of the Holocaust. Early chapters establish a rationale for teaching the Holocaust.

Totten, Samuel, Editor. *Teaching Holocaust Literature*. Allyn and Bacon, 2001.

Holocaust educators discuss how they have successfully taught literature, poetry, drama and memoirs to their students in grades 7 – 12. Teaching Holocaust literature in a pedagogically sound manner is stressed.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Gilbert, Martin. *Atlas of the Holocaust*. London: Michael Joseph, 1982.

316 black-and-white maps show "in chronological sequence, the destruction of each of the main Jewish communities of Europe, as well as acts of resistance and revolt, avenues of escape and rescue, and the fate of individuals."

Gutman, *The Encyclopedia of the Holocaust, 4 Volumes*. Macmillan, 1990.

An alphabetically arranged encyclopedia that deals in depth with "the sources and motivations" for the Holocaust.

Spector, Shmuel, Editor. *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust, 3 Volumes*. New York University Press, 2001.

An abridgement of a work published originally in Hebrew by Yad Vashem. It explores the lives and customs of more than 6,500 Jewish communities that thrived before the Holocaust.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Suggested core content: History of anti-Semitism, Germany from 1918-1933,
and The Final Solution

Adult Fiction:

Schwartz-Bart, Andre. *The Last of the Just*. Overlook, 2000.

Originally published in 1959, this is an unforgettable novel about Jewish persecution in Europe, beginning in England in 1105 and ending with the Holocaust.

Adult Non-fiction:

Bauer, Yehuda. *The History of the Holocaust, Revised Edition*. Franklin Watt/Scholastic, 2002.

The organization and exhaustive coverage are first-rate, and this revision of a 1982 title includes information not available earlier. The "what" and "how" are included here, but there is also an attempt to discover the "why," and that is what lifts this title into the realm of an advanced study of a difficult topic.

Dawidowicz, Lucy S. *A Holocaust Reader*. Behrman House, 1976.

Includes primary and secondary sources on the Holocaust.

Dawidowicz, Lucy S. *The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945*.

A major study that examines the Holocaust from the perspective of the major Jewish communities in central and Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union. It also explores German motivation for genocide, the lack of response from the West, and Jewish resistance.

Gilbert, Martin. *The Holocaust: The History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1981.

A well- documented account of the plight of the Jews in Europe from 1933 to 1945, giving historical background about Germany's economic troubles after World War I and showing how Hitler came to power. The 65-page bibliography cites mainly primary sources.

Hilberg, Raul. *The Destruction of the European Jews, Third Edition*. Yale University Press, 2003.

Spanning the twelve-year period of anti-Jewish actions from 1933 to 1945, Hilberg's study encompasses Germany and all the territories under German rule or influence. Its principal focus is on the large number of perpetrators - civil servants, military personnel, Nazi party functionaries, SS men, and representatives of private enterprises - in the machinery of death.

Rittner, Carol, et al. *The Holocaust in the Christian World*. Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre/ Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies, 2000.

A collection of essays that examine the role of Christian churches during the Holocaust, written from both Jewish and Christian perspectives.

Primary Sources:

Arad, Yitzhak, et al. *Documents on the Holocaust*. University of Nebraska Press and Yad Vashem, 1999.

Selected sources on the destruction of the Jews of Germany and Austria, Poland, and the Soviet Union.

Non-fiction for Young People:

Bachrach, Barbara. *Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust*. Little Brown/United States Holocaust Museum, 1994.

Intended to extend the experience of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum beyond its walls, this book reproduces some of its artifacts, photographs, maps, and taped oral and video histories.

Burstein, Shmuel. *The War Against God and His People: A Guide to the Holocaust for Young People*. Targum/Feldheim, 2000.

A study of the Holocaust from a Torah perspective. The lack of an index is a serious drawback to the book's use.

Kasnett, Rabbi Yitzchak. *The World That Was: Lithuania*. The Living Memorial/Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, 1996.

The World That Was: Poland. The Living Memorial/Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, 1997.

The World That Was: Hungary/Romania. The Living Memorial/Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, 1999.

These three volumes, published as curricula by the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, are all subtitled: "A study of the life and Torah consciousness of Jews in the cities and villages of..." They consist of photographs and survivor accounts. A glossary and a section of student exercises is appended and there is no list of sources or documentation.

Meltzer, Milton. *Never to Forget: The Jews of the Holocaust*. HarperCollins, 1976.

A moving account of the Holocaust, told in terms of the individuals whose lives it touched.

Rogasky, Barbara. *Smoke and Ashes, Revised and Expanded Edition*. Holiday House, 2002.

An outstanding and unflinching historical overview of the Holocaust for young people, placing it in the context of Christian anti-Semitism and comparing and contrasting it with other modern instances of genocide.

Literature for Young People:

Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half Human, and the Good Nazi*. Atheneum, 2004.

A thought provoking novel set in Germany during the rise of the Nazis and during the post-war occupation. Daniel is a Nazi-sympathizer who learns to his horror that he is half-Jewish. As his personal life deteriorates along with life for all German Jews, he comes to repudiate all that Germany stands for. When he returns as an American soldier,

sent to interrogate German prisoners of war, he encounters his former best friend. Should he reveal Armin's Nazi past? Excellent for class discussion!

Friedlander, Albert H. *Out of the Whirlwind: A Reader of Holocaust Literature, Rev. and Expanded*. NY: UAHC Press, 1999.

An anthology of classic writing about the Shoah updated with newer material.

PERPETRATORS

Adult Books:

Goldhagen, Daniel J. *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*. Vintage, 1997.

Drawing principally on materials either unexplored or neglected by previous scholars, Goldhagen marshals new evidence that explains why, when Hitler conceived of the "final solution," he was able to enlist vast numbers of willing Germans to carry it out.

Primary Sources:

Hitler, Adolf. *Mein Kampf*. Mariner Book, 1998.

Ignored when it was first published, Hitler's manifesto should have alerted the world to his program of conquest and genocide.

Non-Fiction for Young People:

Altman, Linda Jacobs. *Crimes and Criminals of the Holocaust*. Holocaust in History Series. Enslow, 2004.

The focus is on the end of World War II and the Nuremberg trials, using archival photographs to document some of the crimes. Issues about evil and human rights are brought up for discussion.

Giblin, James Cross. *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler*. Clarion, 2002.

An insightful historical overview that describes the social, political and economic conditions that proved ripe for the dictator's ascent, as it outlines Hitler's life and career, Augmented by many primary source quotes and well-researched photographs

Rice, Jr., Earle. *Nazi War Criminals*. Holocaust Library Series. Lucent, 1998.

A well researched, succinct study of brutal Nazis like Eichmann, Himmler, Mengele, Streicher, and others.

The Nuremberg Trials. Famous Trials Series. Lucent, 1997.

This highly readable account records the events that led up to the trial of the 22 major Nazi war criminals by the International Military Tribunal (IMT), the trial itself, and its lasting importance.

VICTIMS

Primary Sources:

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years*. SimonPulse, 1999.

A memoir about a thirteen year old Hungarian girl who, with her mother, endured and survived Auschwitz. Her story continues in two more memoirs: *My Bridges of Hope* and *Hello, America*.

Eliach, Yaffa. *There Once Was a World: A 900 Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok*. Little Brown, 1998.

A richly detailed work, describing how “nearly a millennium of vibrant Jewish life had been reduced to stark images of victimization and death.”

Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl*. Doubleday/Bantam, 1995.

For many people, Anne Frank represents and personifies life cruelly destroyed in the Shoah.

Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. Collier Books, 1986

A powerful and sensitively written account of the author’s imprisonment in Auschwitz.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. NY: Avon Books, 1972.

Wiesel’s relationship with his father in Auschwitz and his struggle to cling to humanity are memorable aspects of this classic story.

Non-Fiction for Young People:

Beyer, Mark. *Emmanuel Ringelblum*

A short biography of the man who became the historian and archivist of the Warsaw Ghetto, preserving the historical record so that the world would know of the Nazi’s crimes against Jews.

Callahan, Kerry P. *Mordecai Anielewicz*. Rosen, 2001.

A short biography of the leader of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Lawton, Clive. *Auschwitz*. Franklin Watts, 2001.

A short, photographic account of the concentration camp that leaves no doubt about its horrors.

Literature for Young People:

Glatstein, Jacob, et al. *Anthology of Holocaust Literature*. Atheneum, 1968.

A collection of writings by people who were victims of and witnesses to the Holocaust.

Kushner, Tony. *Brundibar*. Illus. by Maurice Sendak. Hyperion, 2003.

Brundibar is an opera written by a Czech composer who was killed at Auschwitz. It was performed many times by the doomed children imprisoned in Terezin. This illustrated version can be read as a simple fairy tale but older students will be challenged by its symbols of the Holocaust, the similarity of Brundibar to Hitler, and its darker meaning.

Patz, Nancy. *Who Was the Woman Who Wore the Hat?* Dutton, 2003.

A short, very moving mood piece or meditation on one unknown victim of the Holocaust. Winner of a Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Schmidt, Gary. *Mara's Stories: Glimmers In the Darkness.* Henry Holt, 2001.

Based on research into Jewish folklore and legends, the author has crafted a set of memorable stories that are told in the darkness of a concentration camp barracks.

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History.* Pantheon, 1986.

A graphic novel based on the Holocaust experiences of the author/cartoonists' father.

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began.* Pantheon, 1991.

A sequel to Maus I that moves from Auschwitz to the Catskills to portray the author/cartoonist's tortured relationship with his survivor father.

Volovkova, Vera, compiler. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawing and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942-1944, Expanded Ed.*

Another classic piece of Holocaust literature for young people, this can be supplemented by several other excellent accounts of life and imprisonment in Terezin.

BY-STANDERS

Adult Non-Fiction:

Gilbert, Martin. *Auschwitz and the Allies: A Devastating Account of How the Allies Responded to the News of Hitler's Mass Murder.* Owl Books, Reissue edition, 1990.

Laqueur, Walter. *The Terrible Secret: Suppression of the Truth About Hitler's "Final Solution."* Holt, 1998.

Revealing the lethal combination of disbelief and indifference that met the news of Nazi genocide, this offers a chilling analysis of evil.

Wyman, David S. *The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941 – 1945.*

The author examines the evidence and shows how American officials knew about atrocities against the Jews but chose not to intervene.

Literature for Young People

Innocenti, Roberto. *Rose Blanche*.

A short illustrated book that looks easy but is excellent for challenging young people to examine the Holocaust through the eyes of a German by-stander.

Richter, Hans Peter. *Friedrich*. Puffin, 1987.

Serious issues are raised in this story about the friendship between a Jewish and a gentile boy growing up together in Germany between 1925 and 1942. Fast reading and excellent for discussion.