



INTRODUCTION TO HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Submitted by: LANA BERNHARDT

for grades 5 & 6

Jewish History and Culture

We are going to start the commemoration to Holocaust Remembrance Day by listening and discussing only 2 stories of the many thousands of stories of the Holocaust. I know that you have heard of the Holocaust and its history. It is a history, that happened less than 70 years ago, when the decency of humanity faced much darkness, much like the darkness of Mitzryim. The history of the Holocaust is not merely about destruction and loss, it is also about an apathetic world and a few rare individuals of extraordinary courage. It is also a remarkable history of the human spirit, about the life that flourished before the Holocaust, struggled during its darkest hours, and ultimately some prevailed as survivors and rebuilt their lives.

Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day that has been set aside for remembering the victims of the Holocaust and in 1980, the US Congress passed a Congressional act that mandates national civic commemorations and encourages appropriate Remembrance services to remind Americans of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred, and indifference reign. In 2005, the United Nations decreed an International day of Holocaust Remembrance: for the UN member nations to honor those who perished and take a stand to stop hatred in our world.

It is very important for you to study the Holocaust because it raises many particular questions for you: questions that make you think seriously about who you are, what kind of person you want to become, and how you can help repair the world. Many people believe that by studying the Holocaust, we can put the humane back in the meaning of humanity and put the response back in the meaning of responsibility.

Resources:

Book:

THE NUMBER ON MY GRANDFATHER'S ARM by David Adler

Memory - This book reflects the memory of a grandfather, a Holocaust survivor and his struggle to tell his story/his memoirs to his grandchild.



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Video:

MIRACLE AT MOREAUX

Courage - The film is a story of children's courage and a nun who recognized that this 'dark ' time, the rule of the Nazis, was no time to abandon children, not any child. It was a time to give them safety, love, and hope.

Song:

Eli, Eli...song of hope

Hope - It is us ...who take the time to remember those who perished, to celebrate their lives and to give honor to their memory by resolving 'never again'. This saying will never be empty words ...but reflect our commitment to use our knowledge and our choices to make our lives and the lives of others respectful, caring, and loving.

Kaddish - commemorating the lives of those who perished

Bibliography:

THE NUMBER ON MY GRANDFATHER'S ARM - David Adler

Miracle at Moreaux - video

Other age appropriate stories:

NO PRETTY PICTURES - Anita Lobel

AWAY FROM HOME - Anita Lobel

ON MARKET STREET - pictures by Anita Lobel; Words by Arnold Lobel

SIX MILLION PAPER CLIPS - Peter Schroeder & Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand

A HERO AND THE HOLOCAUST - Story of Janusz Korczak and his Children - David A. Adler

PASSAGE TO FREEDOM - Sugihara story - Ken Mochizuki

ALWAYS REMEMBER ME - Marisabina Russo

I NEVER SAW ANOTHER BUTTERFLY - Schoken Books

BRUNDIBAR - Maurice Sendak and Tony Kushner