Recommended Books and Videos for Holocaust and Genocide

Holocaust Books

* The Diary of Anne Frank
  + The true diary of Anne Frank, a German-Jewish teenager in hiding during the Holocaust. Good resource.
* The Devil’s Arithmetic
  + The story of Hannah, a modern American Jewish girl. Hannah does not value her family’s Holocaust history. On Passover, she suddenly finds herself transported back in time to experience her namesake’s Holocaust story first-hand. Good resource.
* All But My Life
  + The true story of Gerda Weissman Klein, a Holocaust survivor. Excellent resource.
* Number the Stars
  + The story of a young Danish girl trying to save her best friend who is Jewish in Nazi occupied Denmark during WWII. Excellent resource.
* Night
  + Based on the true experiences of Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor. Excellent resource, reading level is somewhat more difficult.
* I Never Saw Another Butterfly
  + A collection of poems and artwork by the children of the Terezin Ghetto. Excellent resource.
* The Shawl
  + A short story by Cynthia Ozick depicting life in a concentration camp. Good resource, may be too intense for younger students.

Holocaust Films

* The Hiding Place
  + The story of Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch Christian who hides Jews and suffers in a concentration camp because of her actions. Good resource, somewhat slow-moving and heavily religious.
* The Diary of Anne Frank
  + The film version of Anne Frank’s WWII experiences hiding from the Nazis. Excellent resource, much more concise than the actual diary.
* One Survivor Remembers
  + An interview with Gerda Weissman Klein, Holocaust survivor, and her husband Kurt Klein. Excellent resource, Gerda’s accent can be difficult to understand.
* The Devil’s Arithmetic
  + Film version of book (described above). Good resource, entertaining and helps students place themselves in the place of a person during the Holocaust.
* Jakob the Liar
  + Story of Jakob who protects his fellow Jews from the truth of the Nazi death camps. Good resource.
* Swing Kids
  + Story of German teenagers in pre-war Hamburg, Germany. The teenagers reject the Nazis, refuse to join the Hitler Jugend, listen to forbidden Swing music and embrace the fashion and culture of 30s America and Britain. The story of one boy’s realization of the true horror of the Nazis and his decision to stand up to them, the film demonstrates themes of sacrifice, love, friendship, loyalty, and courage. Excellent resource, some mild language and one brief scene in which boys look at black and white photos showing women’s breasts.
* Life is Beautiful
  + Story of Italian Jewish man and his experiences with prejudice in pre-war and wartime Italy. It is also a love story between a Jewish man and a non-Jewish woman. When the main character and his young son are sent to a concentration camp, the father devises a “game” to prevent his son from being frightened and to protect him from the horror of the camps. The film uses humor to paint a beautiful and poignant story. Excellent resource, sophisticated film may require more processing and scaffolding for students to truly understand the deeper meanings and context. Italian language.
* Nuremberg
  + The story of the post-war Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals. Good resource, somewhat slow moving and complex.
* The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
  + The fictional story of a friendship between the young son of Nazi camp commandant and an imprisoned Jewish boy. Good resource, extremely sad and not very historically accurate.