



Teaching Holocaust Literature: A Guide for Meaningful Engagement

California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education

Essential Questions:

- Reflect on instructional choice-making related to emotionally challenging content, ethical reflection, and responsible engagement with difficult history.
- Delve (Do) into student-centered strategies for grounding Holocaust literature in historical context by engaging in selected lessons as learners.

Reference Resources

- [Teaching Holocaust Literature Collection](#)
- [Teaching Holocaust Literature Collection Overview](#) (downloadable pdf)
- [Teaching Holocaust Literature: A Facing History Resource Guide](#) (downloadable pdf)

Introduction:

This session and accompanying ELA resource collection for grades 7-12 helps educators navigate the historical and emotional complexity of teaching Holocaust literature units with care and depth. This English Language Arts curriculum collection helps you plan and teach a Holocaust literature unit that strengthens literacy and critical thinking skills, promotes historical understanding, and fosters empathy and moral reflection.

Teaching about the Holocaust through literature creates space for intellectual, emotional, and ethical engagement. Through nonfiction and fiction narratives of the Holocaust, your students will:

- Grapple with profound questions about human behavior, responsibility, and moral decision-making, on their own and in conversation with others.
- Develop the awareness and skills to navigate complex moral issues in the world today.
- Draw connections between the past and present, building on the study of Holocaust literature to challenge contemporary bias and hate.

You can use the resources in this collection to plan a unit from scratch, teach from a comprehensive Facing History unit guide for a specific title, or supplement an existing unit with historical context, survivor testimony, diary, art, and more. You'll also find practical strategies throughout the collection to help you create a safe and thoughtful learning environment for engaging with emotionally challenging content.

Planning Resources:

- [Holocaust Literature Introductory Lessons](#)
- [Historical Context Mini-Lessons for Teaching Holocaust Literature](#)
- [☰ Holocaust Literature Unit Planning Template](#)

Teaching Strategies:

- [Classroom Contracting](#)
- [Four Corners](#)
- [Journaling](#)
- [Gallery Walk](#)
- [Think-Pair-Share](#)

On Demand Professional Learning:

- [Upcoming Learning & Events](#)
- [On-Demand Learning](#)

You can access all of these resources in one place by logging into your Facing History account and saving our **CTC Teaching Holocaust Literature Resource Collection** as a bookmark- <https://www.facinghistory.org/user/collection/79415>

