

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Next month, we will begin our study of the Holocaust in 8th grade English/Language Arts. In addition to reading *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, students will read various supplemental texts and view testimonies from Holocaust survivors (see sources listed below). Our study will culminate with a virtual museum experience to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

In this unit, students will see how the character traits we have discussed in literature, such as resilience, empathy, and courage, apply to human beings who endured adversity and unimaginable evil first-hand. The Holocaust is not the story of millions of lives lost; *it is the millions of stories of individual human beings who were persecuted simply for who they were*. It is the story of people who faced impossible choices, and of struggles impossible for us to imagine. Our study will help to shine a light on the bravery, tenacity, and strength of those who were alive during this dark time in modern history.

Due to the emotional impact that comes with studying sensitive historical and literary content, we encourage you to help your child process the material they will be learning. Please be open to their questions--it is all right to not have all the answers. It is just as important to talk with your child about their thoughts and ideas as it is to talk about content.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for further resources, please reach out to me at teacher@school.edu.

Sincerely,

Teacher

Grade level and subject(s)

School

Texts and testimonials have been gathered from the following highly-regarded institutions in Holocaust education:

The Holocaust Memorial Center (<https://www.holocaustcenter.org/>)

Echoes & Reflections (<https://echoesandreflections.org/>)

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (ushmm.org)