"Stand up for what you believe in, even if you are standing alone."

-Sophie Scholl

“Remember in your life there will be lots of circumstances that will need a kind of courage, a kind of decision of your own, not about other people but about yourself”

-Magda Trocme from Le Chambon sur-Lignon



(Hannah Senesh photographed during her paratrooper training)

Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust

Rationale:

The purpose of this lesson is to provide students with historical examples of women and the role they played during the Holocaust. The lesson provides an opportunity for students to learn about 12 lesser known heroines from the Holocaust, to see that they acted independently and selflessly, and came from different countries with different religious backgrounds.

Objectives:

* Students will see how women from diverse countries, religious backgrounds, and bearing different personal situations worked to save others from the Nazis
* Students will learn that people sometimes act *selflessly* in the best interest of others and not to be rewarded.
* Students will examine the motivations of non-Jews, both religious and irreligious, who risked their own lives to save others
* Students will apply situational-based lessons; to act or not when others are being targeted and treated unfairly

Requirements:

Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust PowerPoint

Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust Museum panels or printed versions of same

Access to iWitness to play two Survivor clips

Techniques and Skills:

Group work, listening, analyzing, interpreting, defining terms, application of historical events

Key Words:

Perpetrator Victim Bystander Upstander

Key Concepts

Identifying definition of key words and application to ‘real world’

Determining if one will help a victim, recognize a perpetrator, not help (Bystander) or get involved (Upstander)

Understanding and questioning one’s motivation to assist others (selflessness)

Lesson Procedures:

Part I. Set up

* Break students into groups of 2-4
* Assign Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust double-sided worksheets to each group to answer
* Discuss the keywords defining them and relating them to issues they may see at school using the Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust PowerPoint.
* Show first iWitness Survivor clip (Edith Reiss, 1:20 duration). Define difficult words/terms in video clip. Ask students to identify who the Perpetrator/s, Victim/s, Bystander/s, and Upstander/s was/were in the clip.
* Show second iWitness Survivor clip (Barbara F. Traub, 2:46). Define difficult words/terms in video clip. Ask students to identify who the Perpetrator/s, Victim/s, Bystander/s, and Upstander/s was/were in the clip.
* Explain activity to students by returning to Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust PowerPoint
* Hand out clip boards, pencils, and Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust double-sided worksheets

Part II. Discussion

* Ask for group to volunteer to explain one of the women they learned about. Have them give an overview of their story and then ask the questions on the Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust double-sided worksheets
* Debrief and ask rhetorically how they can apply that to life at their school. Allow for answers and discussion.
* Ask what was their motivation

Timeline

1 classroom period

Lesson handout masters:

Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust blank double-sided worksheets

Girl Power! How Young Women Impacted the Holocaust answered double-sided worksheets