

Kids learning from kids: Holocaust Survivor's Call to Action

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To explore the experiences of child survivors of the Holocaust and understand their call to action for making the world a better place.

RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

- 5 A.I. video clips of Holocaust survivors
- 5 video clip transcripts handout
- Chart paper and writing materials
- Art supplies for creative expression

LESSON

VIEWING | 5 MINUTES

Divide the students into 5 groups and assign each group a different video to view. Distribute the transcripts to the groups to coordinate with their assigned video.

REFLECTION | 5 MINUTES

Instruct the students to independently write notes or questions on their copy of the transcript after they watch the video. They should do this part silently.

DISCUSSION | 5-10 MINUTES

Have the students discuss the video with one another and share any thoughts that they had as they were watching it. They should record these ideas on the chart paper.

Some suggested guiding questions:

- What messages or calls to action did the child survivors share in their stories?
- How can we apply these messages to make the world a better place today?
- What specific actions can children take to stand up against hate, protect freedom and democracy, and be better citizens?

CREATIVE EXPRESSION | 30 MINUTES

Each group will create a visual representation of their survivor's message/call to action using posters, drawings, or multimedia presentations. They should imagine themselves as children sharing messages with their peers, using age-appropriate language and imagery to convey both the survivor's message and the call to action for making the world a better place.

PRESENTATION

Provide opportunities for the students to share and respond to each group's work as appropriate for your classroom. This could be a gallery walk, a display, or an oral presentation.

ROSE LIPSZYC

I come to you today as my younger self to remind you of the beauty of freedom.

We were in a group.

A group of women and children.

They started walking us on a highway towards the train station.

As we were walking, my mother kept holding back and holding back. Whatever belongings she had, she started throwing away into the bushes. I carried a few belongings with me and my mother threw those away.

I want you to understand, I was a little girl.

My mother looked me straight in the face and she said, "I want you to understand that we are going to our death."

A Polish farmer risked his life to help me. I took on the identity of one of the farmer's daughters to survive.

My name is Rose Lipszyc. I was born in Lublin, Poland, in 1929. Which makes me an old lady. I am 95.

Thank God I can still remember things so I can relate them to you.

Try to open up your heart and soul.

Listen.

You'd be surprised how much you can learn from others.



JUDY WEISSENBERG COHEN

I come to you today as my younger self to implore you to put down your phones and think critically.

There came a selection.
That was a common thing.
A daily thing.
And I was selected.

At that time, I wasn't aware of what was happening. I was sent to join a group of other young people who were sitting in a circle naked. And told to wait.

What I learned after was we were sitting there waiting for a truck to take us to the gas chamber.

They took away our shoes. If you go to the gas chambers you won't need your shoes.

What happened is, they didn't kill us that day. And it was only a guessing game why, but most likely, which happened before a couple of times, was that the Nazis ran out of gas.

That was our luck.

I am Judy Weissenberg Cohen.
I was born in Hungary in the city of Debrecen in 1928.
I am 95 years-old today.
And I am a Holocaust survivor.

It can happen in any country if we allow it to happen.



GERSHON WILLINGER

I come to you today as my younger self to ask you to come together to make a better world.

I was born during the war in Holland.

I don't remember much because I was a small child.

What I learned is my parents were taken to Sobibor Concentration Camp in Poland where they were murdered.

I was taken with 49 other children to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in Germany and from there to Theresienstadt in the Czech Republic where I was liberated by the Soviet Army.

What I remember clearly is being lifted up in the army truck. I sat on a hard bench. And we picked up clusters of children along the way who had to be sorted to find out who they were.

As a small child, you can't say who you are and you can't advocate for yourself so that's why myself and many other young children, three, five, six years-old were known as the Unbekannte Kinder... The Unknown Children.

My name is Gershon Willinger.

I was born in 1942 in Amsterdam, Holland.

I'm 82 years old, which makes me a child Holocaust survivor.

Strive for peace. Come together and try to make this a better world.



GEORGINE NASH

I come to you today as my younger self with a message that must be heard.

Everybody had to go down to the courtyard for roll call.

It was November. Miserable weather. They loved people standing around for hours for no reason at all.

My mother had the presence of mind to put some flour on my face and say, "My child is very sick. Would you mind counting us here?"

And the guy said, "Oh, all right."

Whenever I talk about what happened to us during the Holocaust, I always say that every single survivor had to thank their lives to some miracles. And this was our first miracle because the other 38 people were marched directly to the Danube from roll call. They were shot into the river.

My name is Georgine Nash.

I was born in 1937 in Budapest, Hungary.

I am now 87 years-old and

I am a Holocaust survivor.

We have to put our hope in our children.

I want them to have a voice to say that this cannot happen again.



ANDY RÉTI

I come to you today as my younger self to convince you to not be a bystander.

It was a dark, grey day.

We heard a gunfire and we all rushed to the courtyard. My mother saw this Russian soldier and she asked him for some food.

This soldier was big. I mean I was small, but he was a big guy. He reached into his sack and he gave us a piece of bread. Only after I had some did my mother and grandmother take a bite. One more day and we would have starved to death.

To experience the hunger when it is beyond your control is not fair. It's not just.

My name is Andy Réti
I was born in Budapest Hungary in 1942.
I am eighty-one and half years old today and I am a Holocaust survivor.

If you don't know your past, you're bound to repeat its mistakes.

