

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

<p>HIGH SCHOOL Lesson Objectives Comparing & Contrasting two survivors:</p> <p>Victor Farkas & Allan J. Hall</p>	<p>FL State Standards Correlations</p>
<p>Estimated time of the Lesson: Film clip 4 min. lesson 45 minutes for High School (recommended 10th grade)</p>	<p>SUBJECT: SOCIAL STUDIES</p> <p>Strand: SS.912.W World History</p>
<p>1. Students will be able to identify events of the Holocaust by listening to the accounts of survivors of the Holocaust.</p>	<p>Standard 1: SS.912.W1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical procedures.</p>
<p>2. Students will identify the locations of the various places in which the Survivors mention in their accounts.</p>	<p>Strand: SS.912.G: Geography</p> <p>Standard 2: SS.912. G.2: Understand physical and cultural characteristics of places</p>
<p>3. Students will focus on their lives before they were taken prisoners and what the changes were after their capture.</p>	<p>Strand: .SS.912.S Sociology</p> <p>Standard 2: SS.912. S.2 Culture /Examining the influence on the individual and the way cultural transmission is accomplished</p>
<p>4. Students will compare the stories of the two survivors in terms of their lives before, during and after their capture.</p>	
<p>5. Students will recognize that it is 75 years since the end of WWII.</p>	<p>Strand: SS.912.W World History</p> <p>Standard 1: SS.912.W1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical procedure</p>
<p>6. Students will be able to follow the journey of each of the survivors and recognize the different paths that they took.</p>	
<p>7. Students will understand the concept of what Eli Wiesel meant when he said, “Listening to a witness, makes you a witness.”</p>	<p>Subject: ELA</p> <p>Strand LAFS.910.SL: Standards for Speaking & Listening</p> <p>Cluster 1 LAFS.910.SL.1</p> <p>Compréhension & Collaboration</p> <p>Benchmark : LAFS.910.SL.1.3</p> <p>Evaluate & Speakers point of view Reasoning & use of evidence & rhetoric, identifying any fallacious</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.
MATERIALS:	
Map of Europe that includes Hungary, Poland, Scotland & England, Hungary DVD Player, screen, Worksheets	
SUGGESTED PROCEDURES	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worksheets will be distributed to all students. (Blank worksheets as well as a blank Venn Diagram) 2. Students will be asked to take notes and fill in sections of the worksheets that are pertinent during the presentation. 3. Students will view 4 minute clip: “<i>The World Before</i>” https://holocaustmemorialmiamibeach.org/journey/en/panel/the-world-before.html 4. Two Designated students will read the accounts of the survivors indicated above (Hall & Farkas) [<i>Alternative options is to have students read the accounts independently prior to class and have them be prepared to follow the rest of this lesson</i>] 5. Students will use worksheets to take notes based upon the presentations. 6. Using a map of Europe teacher asks students to identify where all of the countries are that the Survivors addressed. 7. Teacher asks students to indicate vocabulary that they didn’t understand (kapo, Schwabish, ghetto) 8. Teacher teams up students in twos/threes and instructs students to compare and contrast the various aspects of the Survivors’ testimonies on a Venn Diagram 9. Students called upon to share various elements of their Venn Diagram <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What did they have in common? b. What were the distinct different experiences? 	<p>Subject: Social Studies</p> <p>Geography: Strand SS912.G</p> <p>Standard 1 SS 912.G.1: Understand how to use maps and other geographic representatives, tools and technology to report information.</p> <p>Subject: ELA</p> <p>Strand: LAFS.910.RI: Reading Standards for Informational Text</p> <p>Cluster 2 LAFS.910.RI.2: Craft & Structure</p> <p>Benchmark: LAFS.910.RI.2.4 Determine the meaning of words & phrases as they are used in a text, including figuration, connotation and technical meanings; analyze the connotation’s impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.</p> <p>Strand: LAFS.910.RI: Reading Standards for Informational Text</p> <p>Cluster 3: LAFS.910.RI.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	<p>Benchmark: LAFS.910.RI.3.7 Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums determining which details are emphasized in each account.</p>
<p>10. Teacher poses questions for students to respond:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher has students surmise what attribute of the Survivors helped them to survive. What emotions do you sense from the passages read? What might have been some of the feelings of isolation and imprisonment that the survivors felt? What are some of the similarities of the survivors that you discovered? What are some of the marked differences that you note? Of the two survivors, which one might have suffered the most? How did they use their innate abilities to survive? 	
<p>11. Teacher introduces Eli Wiesel’s premise “<i>Listening to a witness, makes you a witness.</i>” Ask students to explain the phrase.</p> <p>12. Teacher has students write a thought that they would like to share with either survivor, incorporating Eli Weisel’s theme.</p> <p>13. OR if time doesn’t permit for #11 assign as follows: HW assignment (optional): Teacher invites students to write a letter to the Survivor sharing how they received his story and their perspective on his survival.</p>	<p>Subject: ELA</p> <p>Strand LAFS.K12.SL: Standards for Speaking & Listening</p> <p>Cluster 1 LAFS.K12.SL.1: Comprehension & Collaboration</p> <p>Benchmark – LAFS.k12.SL.1.3 Evaluate a speakers point of view, reasoning & use of evidence & rhetoric</p>
<p>Wrap Up Experiences varied for people in camps depending on a number of factors. The stories of the two people that we examined today are just two of many different experiences. How did these survivors maintain a sense of hope and humanity? Give two examples from today’s lesson.</p>	<p>Subject: Social Studies</p> <p>Strand: SS.912.S: Sociology</p> <p>Standard 2: SS.912.S2 Culture / Examine the influence on the individual & the way cultural transmission is accomplished.</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	Benchmark: SS.912.2.9 Prepare original written and oral reports and presentations on specific events, people or historical eras.
--	---

Survivor	NAME:	NAME:
Birthplace		
Type of pre-H childhood: Describe type of life survivor had before s/he was captured – school, family, religiosity, activities		
Age during Holocaust		
Camps/Situation Describe the types of situations in which the Survivor found him/herself		

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

Camps, hiding, escape		
Worst part of his/her account		
Best part of his/her account during the Holocaust		
Post Holocaust life: Describe the Survivor's life after s/he was liberated.		

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

USA/CANADA: Describe how they ended up coming to America		
75 years later: Describe the survivor's perspective celebrating these many years since the war.		

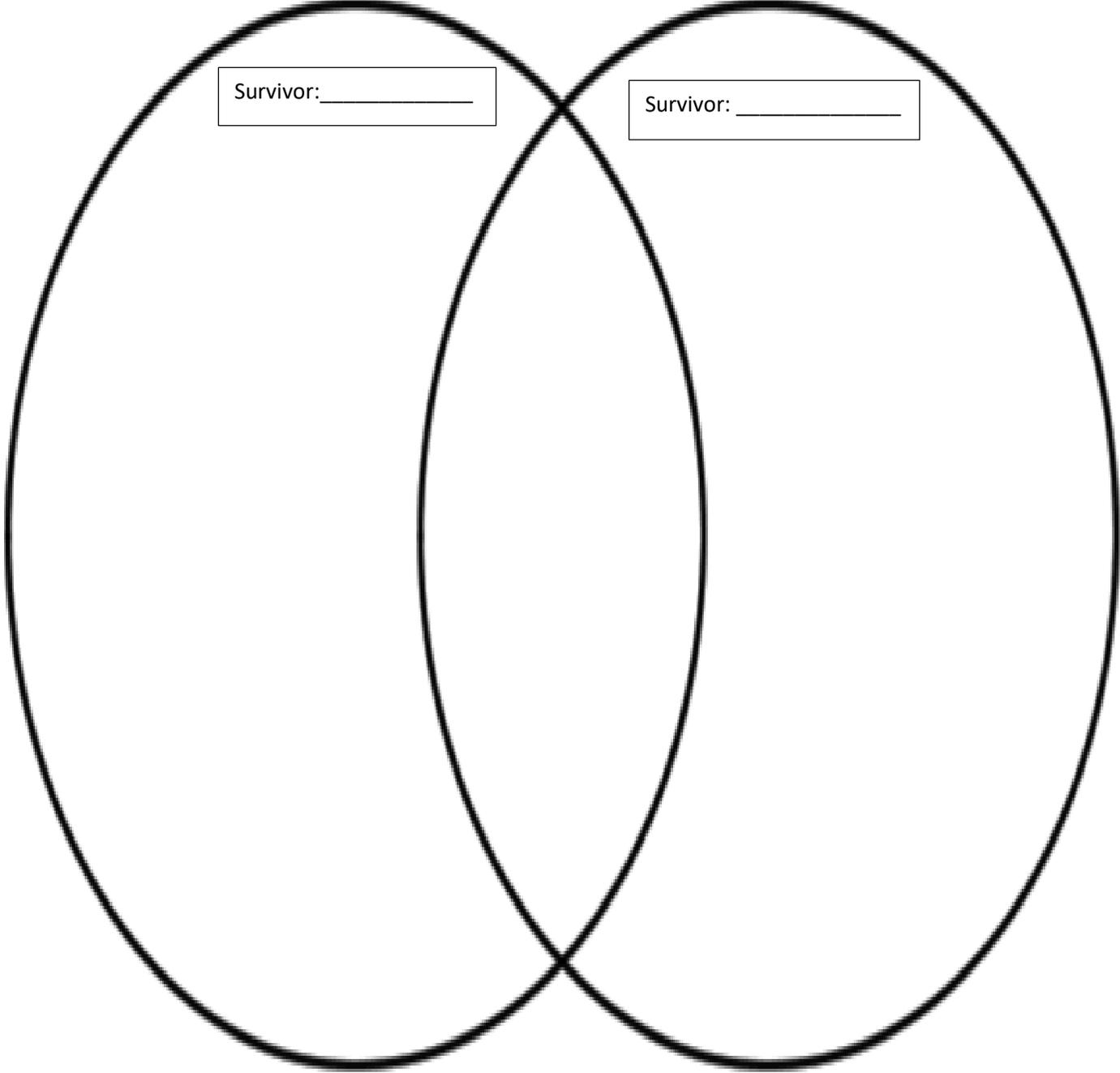
Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

Survivor: _____

Survivor: _____



Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

Survivor	Victor Farkas From his book - <i><u>The Cap Maker's Son: Victor Farkas's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust</u></i> as told to Bobbie Kaufman and summarized for the purpose of this Lesson by R' Dr. Leon Weissberg
Birthplace	I was born in Debrecen, Hungary on March 18, 1927
Type of pre-Holocaust childhood Describe type of life survivor had before s/he was captured – school, family, religiosity, activities	<p>I lived in a middle class Jewish home with my mother, my father and my maternal grandfather. I was an only child. We were not poor, but we were not rich....</p> <p>We lived on 2nd floor of a 2 bedroom apartment. Parents slept in 1 bedroom, grandfather slept in the other, maid slept on kitchen table and I slept on the couch in the living room. We had indoor plumbing with hot water a bathtub and a shower. We didn't have a telephone nor a car. One of the happiest days of my youth was when I got a bicycle. We led a normal life.</p> <p>I had a girlfriend that came from the villages to go to the girls school in my town. She lived in a rented apartment in my building. We saw each other all of the time she was in town. When she went back home during school breaks we corresponded daily. When the war came we were separated.</p> <p>In the summer my parents got me a pass for the street car so I could go to the swimming pools where Gentiles & Jews mixed together. There were no issues. I never really saw antisemitism, but then I lived in a Jewish neighborhood and went to a Jewish school. I was warned to stay away from groups of Gentile boys. My father had a hat making store with 3 employees. He made all kinds of hats.</p> <p>The family was not religious. Much more traditional observing Jewish customs. They always had Shabbat dinner with special foods prepared for the Shabbat (Chulent, gefilte fish). Grandfather was very religious and because of him I kept kosher until the ghetto – then never again. My rabbi was a great influence on my life. He tried to warn us of the coming danger. He tried to interest us in going to Palestine.</p> <p>In school we learned Hungarian, German and Latin. The German will come in very handy later on. I was a proud Hungarian Jew.</p> <p>When I transferred to a public school Gentile students would leave once a month for military education and Jewish students would have to do manual labor such as clean the streets. I did not like school.</p>
Age during Holocaust	12-16 years old
Camps/Situation Describe the types of situations in which the	<p>The war didn't reach us at the very beginning. In 1942 my father sent me to a hat factory in Budapest to learn how to be a really good cap-maker. The only sad part of my young life was when my father would be called up to work in the labor camps. Jews were not drafted into military but into labor camps. He would be away for months at a time.</p> <p>Things began to change in Hungary. Jews had to wear a yellow star. My father had to wear a yellow armband on his Hungarian uniform. We still had relative freedom compared to Poland &</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

<p>Survivor found him/herself</p> <p>Camps, hiding, escape</p>	<p>Czechoslovakia. The Germans designated an area of our city to be a ghetto. We were lucky that we lived in the designated ghetto area but 3 families were assigned to move in with us in our apartment. New rules were being generated daily about what we could and could not do. The biggest disappointment of that time in the ghetto was when people I knew, friends, all looked away and crossed to the other side of the street when they saw me guarded by gendarmes and wearing my yellow star. My father had given me a jacket with three buttons that were made of gold and covered with material to be used if ever I needed money for food or for bribery</p> <p>One morning, after a month, everybody in the ghetto was taken out at the same time with no more than one suitcase per person. We were taken to a brick factory which was the worst place to be. There were no sanitary facilities. We slept on the dirty floor. After three days we heard we would be relocated again. People were loaded onto cattle cars. There were about 95 people in mine. We were given a little water and a pail for sanitary purposes. There was no room to sit. You had to stand the entire time. We were on that train for 4 days with no food and no water. The tracks on the way to Auschwitz had been blown up so that we couldn't get there we were rerouted to Austria and became laborers in their factories and farms. We arrived outside of Vienna in June 1944. When our train finally stopped, the first thing we had to do was unload the dead people from the cattle car. Many of the dead were children. We were loaded on a truck to a camp outside the city with my mother and my grandfather. We were each given a bed and hung blankets around the three beds for privacy. There were showers in the building, men & women separately. There were sanitary facilities.</p> <p>The allied bombings of Vienna and other areas around were highly visible giving us much hope. The late deportation of Jews from Hungary was because the Hungarian government did not follow Hitler's orders to round up the Jews. In April 1944 seeing that they hadn't been rounded up Hitler sent in the German army to do the work.</p> <p>In March 1945 the Russians were approaching and the Germans didn't want us to be liberated, so they gathered us together and ushered us out unto the road to begin to march us 140 miles to Mauthausen. We tried to escape by lagging behind but the guards pushed us forward. The pace was very fast and my grandfather couldn't keep up and that was the last time I saw him. We were not given food except what people in their houses gave us as we marched past them. One night we were sleeping on the road near a butcher shop and I went with one of my gold buttons and asked him for some food. He gave us a piece of cooked meat, I think it was horsemeat, but it was food and we ate it. We marched for 2 ½ weeks until we reached Mauthausen.</p> <p>Upon arrival they shaved us. We were told to strip off our clothes for a shower and they took all of our clothes away, including my jacket with the gold buttons. We were given striped prisoner uniforms. Women and men were separated and I was separated from my mother for the first time. I was assigned to an upper bunk along with three other people. We were watched by kapos, who were prisoners like us, but in charge. They were usually excessively cruel to show the Germans that they</p>
--	---

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	<p>could keep us in line. He would walk around with a stick beating anyone in the barrack for any infraction or just because he could. We were full of lice and played a game of pulling off a handful of lice from our body and guessing if we had an even or an odd number in our hands. Each day we got some soup and some bread. We sat on the ground to eat. We were lucky that we weren't assigned any work. Most people in Mauthausen died from overwork, malnutrition and beatings. I spent most of my time in my bed trying to stay away from the kapo.</p> <p>I remember meeting my mother every day on one side of the fence and she on the other. Walking to see my mother, I found my jacket with the gold buttons in a pile of garbage. Amazingly, all the gold buttons were intact.</p>
<p>Worst part of his/her account</p>	
<p>Best part of his/her account during the Holocaust</p>	<p>The best part of my experience was each time I discovered someone from my family was still alive. In some cases I saw them during my camp experiences and subsequently I discovered them after the war ended.</p>
<p>Post Holocaust life: Describe the Survivor's life after s/he was liberated.</p>	<p>On May 5, 1945 the Allies liberated Mauthausen. I saw two jeeps with American soldiers driving into the camp. The first thing they did was put DDT all over everybody to get rid of the lice. Everyone looked like they were covered with snow. They received measured amounts of food so that they wouldn't die from too much inappropriate foods for shrunken stomachs. We stayed in the camp until we could figure out how we would get home. I went to work for the Americans helping to repatriate the Hungarian survivors. The Americans tried to convince us to go to America but we were insistent to going back to find my father even though, we were told that Hungary was in the Russian zone.</p> <p>Our train ride back to Hungary was terrible. At night the Russian soldiers got on the train and raped any woman they saw. In order to protect my mother we got off the train at night, slept in the streets and then got back on in the morning before it left. In Budapest we found my uncle and cousins. He gave us money to go on to our village Debrecen. When we got there, we found someone living in our apartment, the cap store was empty, the factory was empty of all the machinery. There was nothing and we had no money, no home, no furniture! We finally found a friend who had a furniture factory with an empty room in the back. I went to the apartment building where we used to live and my father had hidden jewelry in the basement. I dug them up and we used them to buy food and necessities. With that money we reopened the cap store waiting for my father to come home. There was no business. I went into the countryside & bought fruits, chickens and anything else and return to sell it for a profit. Sometimes I went to Budapest with all the goods to sell at a better price. One day we got a letter from the Hungarian government that my father owed taxes and that I should pay it. I</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	<p>told them about the Holocaust and they didn't believe that such a thing ever happened. I didn't pay the taxes.</p> <p>I believed the future was in Zionism and joined some of the youth groups. I later found out that the Hungarian Nazi party, the Arrow Cross, found my Aunt and cousins and killed them all. I further discovered that my father died of malnutrition the day after liberation. Once I learned that I hated Hungarians and wanted to go to Israel. A former friend of my father was an American soldier and got us passage to Vienna in the American zone. There we were able to make arrangements for my mother and me to go to Israel. Mother didn't want to go to Israel but to Brooklyn where she had a sister. We ended up in Germany near an American Embassy where we could apply for a visa. We ended up in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp where we had a small apartment and I got a job at the canteen, not for money but for food coupons. After waiting two years for a visa the opportunity to go to Norway appeared and we took it. Before we left I married the woman I fell in love with in the DP Camp. Once they were settled in my mother insisted that we weren't married until a Rabbi pronounced the wedding under a canopy. I found a Rabbi nearby in Norway and he came out with the entire Jewish community of the village to be a part of the wedding celebration. The Norwegians were very good to us. They found us jobs, housing and anything we needed.</p>
<p>USA/Canada Describe how they ended up coming to America</p>	<p>In 1951 we got visas for Canada and my wife, Judy and I went with my mother coming later. We arrived in Montreal via Liverpool and Halifax. The Jewish community helped us to learn English but mostly we learned it by going to the movies all the time. I'm not religious but we did have our daughter named by the Rabbi in Montreal. I tried to get a good paying job in Montreal but the best they offered me was \$25 a week as a cap maker. I tried to get a job in Toronto, which I did but housing was much too expensive so I went back to Montreal and got a job as a furrier for \$100 a week. That was much better. I struggled to make a living as a cap-maker. I got a number of machines as payment from someone to whom I had lent money. I tried selling to the department stores in Toronto and Montreal. I was forced to hire union workers and then the Japanese started making caps and selling them for less than I could. I tried a chicken farm with my cousin and didn't like that at all.</p> <p>I took a course in real estate and eventually became a broker specializing in income producing properties. During the Yom Kippur War I went to Israel and did work to help the soldiers fight. In 1976 the Quebec Provincial elections were won by the French and the laws were quickly changed to say that everything had to be in French. It was time to leave again. This time we decided to move to Miami. I acquired various hotels and partnered with German banks to invest in these hotels as the tourism industry continued to climb.</p>
<p>75 years later: Describe the survivor's</p>	<p>"I survived because I was lucky!" I've had a happy life, a good life. I've given the three gold buttons to my grandchildren hoping that they will remember where it came from and always remain Jewish.</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

perspective celebrating these many years since the war.	
---	--

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

Survivor	Allan J. Hall [From his book - <i>Hiding in Plain Sight: Allan J. Hall's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust</i> as told to Bobbi Kaufman and summarized for this lesson by R' Dr. Leon Weissberg
Location	Cracow, Poland to Lvov, Poland, Paris, France, USA
Type of pre-H childhood	We were an upper middle class, secular Jewish family. At first we didn't encounter any really antisemitic attacks, but as the Germans entered Poland, the propaganda was so significant that our friends and neighbors began to turn on us. My best friend's mother called me a "dirty Jew" and forbid me to play with her child any longer.
Age during Holocaust	I was 8 when the war began and 12 years old when I was finally freed.
Camps/Situation	Much of my life during the war was running from one hiding place to another all over the region. I was hidden throughout the war in various locations
During the Holocaust Situation	I spent my childhood hiding from the Nazis. We would take walks on back-wood trails, travelling from place to place in order to avoid being seen. On our first trip I slept outdoors until we reached Lvov. There we stayed and all was good until the Germans arrived – then I was not permitted to go to school and we had to be relocated to the ghetto where we lived with 2 other families in one apartment. There was an action to gather up all of the Jewish children. I was picked up in that gathering and my father bought my freedom with gold & jewels that he had brought with him. In order to avoid this happening again we left our apartment in the ghetto and went into hiding in the ceiling of the theater where my father worked. During this time we never used a toilet only a chamber pot on a potty chair. After a few days we were spotted and had to find a new hiding place – in the basement of a production factory. After two months and two more families hiding with us, we moved out (Nov 1941). Father got us false papers indicating that we were Christian and then he got a "nose job" for himself in order to look Christian with a small Aryan nose. Then he dyed his hair blond and passed as an Austrian among the Germans. We then moved to Czestochowa, the

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	<p>epicenter of Catholic Poland. We kept moving from rental rooms to rental rooms as one landlord after another became suspicious.</p> <p>After a few months we left for Warsaw. While father was out, Germans came to our new Warsaw apartment and questioned our Christian papers because we looked Jewish – The Nazis sent us to Umshlagplatz (the gathering station by the railroad terminal where Jews from the Warsaw ghetto would be sent to the Treblinka death camp).</p> <p>I was separated from my mother and sent into Warsaw ghetto into an orphanage. A Christian Pole came to get him and bring me to my parents but I had to pose as a Polish child.</p> <p>Not wanting to stay in the Warsaw Ghetto, my family moved on, passing as Poles to the tallest skyscraper in Poland, the Drapacz which was the epicenter of the German presence. Father created a fictitious furnishing supply company to the German Army. During the day mother and I hid in a closet for ten hours every day. Father foraged for food daily.</p> <p>One day when my father was out a German air raid warden found us hiding during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and ushered us to hide in the basement and not the closet on the 13th floor. After an unexploded bomb was discovered in the basement we immediately left for another hiding place in Warsaw. We eluded sniper fire as we crossed Warsaw to a hiding place of the Polish underground. Towards the end of 1944 my mother gave birth to a baby boy. Father got them on a transport for sick Poles leaving the city as the Germans were bombing every building and killing as many Poles as they could. We somehow ended up in Crakow. The Soviets finally entered Crakow and liberated the city from the Germans. Everyone celebrated and we could go back to our original beautiful apartment. Our family made a lot of changes after the war.</p>
Post Holocaust life	<p>My parents decided we would stay in Poland and the family turned Catholic for a while. Father became deputy in the new Polish Gov't ministry of the Treasury. Mother decided it wasn't safe to be Jewish so they pronounced themselves Catholic so I could go to the only available schools –Catholic schools. We went to church on every Sunday making certain that the people would see us there. One day my grandmother, my father's mother, showed up after being hidden in the Polish mountains by her maid. She also indicated that her daughter was safe in Argentina. Grandmother was terribly upset to discover they were Catholic. She said that by doing that they had allowed Hitler to win.</p> <p>Father immediately said we were going back to being Jewish.</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	<p>Father was arrested by the Russians for allegedly being an anti-communist and mother took all of us to escape. She put me and my baby brother with a cousin on a transport to Palestine via Trieste. In order to get there we went from Displaced Persons (DP) camp to DP camp through Austria and Italy.</p> <p>Eventually my parents found us in Baden; my brother was in the hospital with measles. As soon as possible my parents took us to Paris with my father’s diplomatic passport, which had been repealed but without computers, no one knew that. They ended up getting a trip to London and then a flight to USA.</p>
<p>USA/Canda da</p>	<p>My Uncle Henry thought my birth name, Adam, was not an American name and suggested I change it to Alan. I instantly adopted that name but I didn’t know how to spell it, so I became Allan. the wife of Newburgh’s reform temple’s rabbi, came to our house several days a week to teach me English. I very much wanted to fit in in America and to do that I had to lose my Polish accent. I listened so intently to Mrs. Bloom’s accent that I eventually could mimic her voice. I still have a trace of her South Carolina accent.</p> <p>We lived in Uncle Nat’s summer home for about a year and a half until we saved enough money to move to an apartment - the first place of our own in America. The neighborhood may have been nice at one time, but when we moved there it was seedy and nearly abandoned. Mother and father started their own business after learning the trade of being a seamstress and tailor.</p> <p>By the end of ninth grade I was doing well in school, making dean’s list and being inducted into the National Honor Society</p> <p>In the winter of 1951 my uncle invited my parents to join him on vacation to Miami Beach. They fell in love with it and decided we would move there and open a store selling bric-a-brac and antique jewelry. They wanted to drop the drapery and slipcover business because carrying the heavy bolts of fabric to peoples’ homes was too physically demanding for Dad. In June 1952 my father and I drove to Miami Beach looking for a store and an apartment to rent. On that trip we discovered that my father was color blind when he sped through red lights having no idea, they were red and scaring me half to death!</p> <p>Our plan was to move to Miami Beach in August and prepare our store for the winter tourist season. One night my parents said to me, “We cannot leave the business right now. We need</p>

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

you to take the train to Miami, on your own, and set up the store while we finish up here.” I was sixteen years old - it sounded like an adventure.

I took the Silver Meteor to Miami and moved into our apartment. Soon, shelving and merchandise for the store began arriving. I assembled the shelving and set up the displays. Customers walked in through the open doors of the un-air-conditioned store and began buying. At last I had some money.

In 1954 I graduated from high school as Allan Horski. Horski was the name my father chose at random as our last name during the war. He could not use the Jewish name Horowitz as long as we were in Poland and we did not want to use it now either. Anti-Semitism was common in the United States after World War II. We despised the name Horski and wanted to change it. We were looking for an H name when I found the name Hall in the Miami Beach phone book. It was the most common name starting with the letter H.

That summer we became American citizens. Our first two years in America were spent virtually in hiding. We were so petrified, so frightened of being sent back, that we went back to our old mode of hiding in plain sight and never applied at immigration. In 1949, after a number of visits with lawyers and assurances from my uncles, my parents were finally persuaded to visit the authorities. Naturalization was a five year process. We became eligible for citizenship in 1954, seven years after our arrival - the first two years didn't count because we were not legal.

I graduated high school, had my name changed, became a citizen, and began college all in the same summer. I had been admitted to the University of Florida as Allan Horski. I had a difficult time convincing the University of Florida that Allan Horski and Allan Hall were one and the same person.

While at the University of Florida I met, fell in love with and married Jeri Horowitz. We had two daughters - Lisa and Julie. Jeri and I divorced after 21 years, but maintain a cooperative relationship on all family matters.

I had taken one law course in college and liked it, so I thought maybe I'll try law school. I sold my business, took the LSAT, did well, applied to the University of Florida law school, and was accepted all within three months. I graduated; I accepted a job in Atlanta. I practiced transactional law in Atlanta for 20 years - from 1966 to 1988. My last 17 years were utterly delightful. I was teaching at Southern Polytechnic State University (Now merged into Kennesaw State University just outside of Atlanta.)

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach



Holocaust Survivor Memoir Lesson Plans

	Andy also joined a law firm in Atlanta after graduation, but soon moved to Miami.
75 years later	<p>I no longer keep my experience in the Holocaust private. As survivors aged and fewer and fewer of them were able to speak publicly and the demand for speakers increased, I began to speak. I am a docent and regular speaker at the Holocaust Memorial on Miami Beach. When people ask how, as such a young child, I knew and understood so many details of our hiding, I reply, "We were in quarters where my parents had no privacy. I knew what was going on - even when they shifted from language to language, I understood. Also, when you are that frightened, you remember everything." My mother never spoke about the Holocaust, my father never stopped talking about it. Most of what I know is a combination of listening to him and my personal experience.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that as of today I am 82 years old, in good health, and very active. After a traumatic beginning, life has been good to me. Life in the United States, though it was not always perfect, has been wonderful and well beyond anything I might have expected. It is my hope that this book will continue to tell my story of survival and resilience after I no longer can</p>