



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

Movie: **Back to Gombin**

Time: 56 minutes (English & Yiddish w/ subtitles)

Theme: Keeping Memories Alive

Summary: This film tells the story of a group of 50 survivors and their 2nd and 3rd generations returning to the village that their parents and grandparents left some 70 years earlier. As they toured the village of Gombin they encounter some of the Poles who remember the Jews of the village and have photographs of family members of the group that were killed by the Nazis which prompts the survivors to recount some of their own accounts of horror and murder. The story takes the viewer to the Jewish cemetery to commemorate a memorial established with the reclaimed desecrated tombstones of the cemetery.

Summary Questions:

1. How long did the Jews live in Poland?
2. What percentage of American Jewry come from eastern Europe?
3. What type of Jewish life did the Jews of Gombin enjoy?
4. How did they kill the Jews as they travelled to Chelmno?
5. How many Jews lived in Gombin?
6. From where did the community retrieve the desecrated monuments to make the memorial?
7. To which South American country did one of the survivor's escape?
8. Whose tombstone was the family trying to find? Did they find it?
9. What did the families bring back to New Jersey to put on the tombstones of deceased survivors? (stones)
10. What happened to one of the survivors near the end of his life? (suicide)

Reflective Questions:

1. What were the feelings of some of the members of the group on the bus ride?
2. What were some of the positive highlights the survivors remember about their life in Gombin?
3. Compare the relationship between the Polish people and the Jews of Gombin before the war and once the war began. Give an example of each.
4. What were the perceptions of the grandchildren of the survivors on this trip?
5. What happened when Isaac recognized his house #22 in Gombin?
6. What does the journalist mean when he says, "Where should you build your identity, Treblinka or Sinai?"
7. What was the percentage of Jews in Gombin? (7000/2000 almost 30%)
8. What was the essence of the survivor's poem, "God Turned His Face Away?"
9. How did the grandson see his role as a grandson of a survivor?



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10. Describe the ceremony in the cemetery regarding the Polish citizens of Gambin.

Standards:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: *SS.6.W: World History*

Standard 1: *SS.6.W.1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.*

Benchmark: *SS.6.W.1.3: Interpret primary and secondary sources*

Benchmark: *SS.6.W.1.6: Describe how history transmits culture and heritage and provides models of human character.*

Subject: English Language Arts

Strand: *LAFS.68.RH: Reading standards for literacy in History / Social Studies 612*

Cluster 1: *LAFS.68.RH.1: Key ideas and details*

Benchmark: *LAFS.68.RH.1.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or a secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.*

Cluster 3: *LAFS.68.RH.3: Integration of knowledge and ideas*

Benchmark: *LAFS.68.RH.3.9: Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.*

HIGH SCHOOL

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: *SS.912.G: Geography*

Standard 2: *SS.912.G.2: Understand physical and cultural characteristics of places*

Benchmark: *SS.912.G.2.1: Identify the physical characteristics and the human characteristics that define and differentiate regions.*

Strand: *SS.912.W: World History*

Standard 1: *SS.912.W.1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.W.1.3: Interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.W.1.4: Explain how historians use historical inquiry and other sciences to understand the past.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.W.1.6: Evaluate the role of history in shaping identity and character.*

Standard 7: *SS.912.W.7: Recognize significant causes, events, figures, and consequences of the Great War period.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.W.7.6: Analyze the restrictions of individual rights and the use of mass terror against populations in the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, and occupied territories.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.W.7.8: Explain the causes, events, and effects of the Holocaust, 1933-1945, including its roots in antisemitism, 19th century ideas about race and nation, and Nazi dehumanization of the Jews and other victims.*

Strand: *SS.912.S: Sociology*



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Standard 2: *SS. 912.S.2: Culture / Examine the influence on the individual and the way cultural transmission is accomplished.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.S.2.3: Recognize the influences of genetic inheritance and culture on human behavior.*



With special thanks to the Florida Department of Education

