



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

Movie: Who Will Write Our History

Time: 38 minutes

Theme: The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword

Summary: The voice and writings of Rachel Auerbach relate the story of the hidden archives under the Warsaw Ghetto. In November 1940, the Warsaw Ghetto was formed and sealed with 450,000 Jews. A secret group of journalists, scholars and community leaders, led by historian Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum decided to collect and record what was happening to the ghetto so that the world will know the truth behind the German propaganda. This clandestine group was known as the Oyneg Shabes Archive. The film mixes the writings of the Oyneg Shabes Archives with new interviews, rarely seen footage and dramatization inside the ghetto, as well as, how the documents were discovered.

Questions for Middle School:

1. How did Rachel Auerbach meet Dr. Ringelblum?
2. What was Rachel's immediate response to Dr. Ringelblum's request?
3. What kind of clandestine group did Dr. Ringelblum form?
4. What were the differences inside and outside the ghetto?
5. What did the writings, diaries and photos tell?
6. How did the initial purpose of the Oyneg Shabes group change?
7. How did they hide the documents?
8. When did they uncover the buried suitcases with all of the documents?
9. Who was the only one of the original Oyneg Shabes group who knew where the suitcase was buried?

Questions for High School:

1. Why did Dr. Ringelblum want to meet Rachel Auerbach?
2. Why was the Oyneg Shabes group formed?
3. How did they demonstrate the watchword of the Oyneg Shabes, "To live and to die with honor"?
4. Describe how difficult life was for the Jews inside the Warsaw Ghetto.
5. How did writing make the members of Oyneg Shabes group feel?
6. When did the initial purpose of the Oyneg Shabes group change? How did they implement the change?
7. How were they able to hide the documents without being discovered?
8. How were the buried suitcases with all of the documents uncovered?
9. How many of the Oyneg Shabes members survived to uncover the suitcases?

Standards:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: SS.6.W.1 – Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes

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



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

HIGH SCHOOL

Subject: Social Studies

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.

Standard 7: SS.912.W.7: Recognizes significant causes, events, figures and consequences of the great war.

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

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.

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: SS.912.S: Sociology

Standard 4: SS.912.S.4: Social Groups/Explore the impacts of social groups on individual and group behavior

Benchmark: 912.S.4.9 – Discuss how formal organizations influence behavior of their members.

Benchmark: 912.S.4.11 – Discuss how humans interact in a variety of social settings

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