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Children of War

Page:
1 2 3 4 5 6



Grade Level 6-8, 9-12

Subject Area language arts

Curriculum Focus

world history, sociology, psychology,
media literacy

Duration 2 weeks

Objective

Students will read, analyze, and discuss excerpts from children's war diaries; and create a storyboard for a public service announcement on children's rights in wartime.

Materials

A computer with Internet access, poster supplies, presentation software (optional)

Procedure

Motivation:

Write the following quote from Herbert Hoover on the board:

Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war.

★ Related Materials

Destiny Determined: Power and Ritual in Asia DVD

Product Type: DVD
Price: 69.95

Learn about the history,
culture, and people of China
and Japan.



Herbert Hoover
June 27, 1944

Hold a class discussion to bring students to the realization that when wars are fought in remote parts of the world, we often feel detached from the situation. For those who live in the midst of war, however, the experience is all too real.

1. Have students watch the following public service announcement (PSA) on children's rights in wartime. Then hold a class discussion using questions from part one of the [question sheet](#).

Children Have the Right to Protection in Times of War



28.8 kbps



56 kbps

To watch this video, you need the RealPlayer plug-in. [Download it](#) now.

2. Have students read the excerpts from children's diaries of war. Divide students into small groups and assign each group one of the three sets of excerpts. Each group may read aloud to each other or read silently. Then hold a class discussion on each set of excerpts using the questions from part 2 of the [question sheet](#).
[Zlata's Diary](#)
[World War II Diaries](#)
[Diaries of Northern Ireland](#)
3. Work with students to create a storyboard for their own PSA on children's rights during wartime using the [steps for creating a storyboard](#).

Closure

Have students display and present their completed storyboards to the class. When all the storyboards have been presented, discuss which boards had a powerful message and why.

Extension

1. Have students write a series of interview questions for one of the diary writers. A partner can respond to the questions from the perceived perspective of the author.
2. Encourage students to research the history of each conflict featured here to learn more about who was involved and locate each diary writer's home on a map of the world. Instruct students to use the Internet to identify landmarks near the child author's home. If a street map and address are available, have them find the street and house or apartment. They should describe how the neighborhood would have appeared at the time the diary was written.

Related Links

[UNICEF: Children in War](#)
[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
[A Teacher's Guide to the Holocaust](#)
[The Anne Frank House](#)
[Anne Frank Online](#)

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Suggested Reading

Opal : The Journal of an Understanding Heart
(Opal Whitely, adapted by Jane Boulton, Crown, 1995.)

Credits

Our thanks to Ken Zelasko and Kelley Devine for their consultation. Ken is an English teacher in Las Vegas, Nevada. Kelley is an English teacher in Rockville, Maryland.

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