

***Surviving Hitler* by Andrea Warren** (Published by Harper Collins)

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 8

Summary

Surviving Hitler, a biography, covers the life of Jack Mandelbaum, a Kansas City native, before, during, and after the Holocaust. Born in Poland, he and his family are taken to the concentration camps because they are Jewish. Jack survives four camps, but the rest of his family is not so fortunate. This is Jack's story of survival.

Connection to the Curriculum

Through this biography, students can explore the cause and effect situations, character development, and other literary devices of the nonfiction text. Students can engage in research and make historical connections with the Holocaust. The Blue Valley virtues of honesty and perseverance may also be highlighted.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.14- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.15- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

1.4.18- The student explains cause-effect relationships in appropriate-level narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical texts.

1.4.24- The student uses evidence from text to support conclusions drawn from grade level reading.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student describes different aspects of major and minor characters (e.g., their physical traits, personality traits, feelings, actions, motives) and explains how those aspects influence characters' interactions with other characters and elements of the plot, including resolution of the major conflict.

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and analyzes connections between the setting and other story elements (e.g., character, plot).

2.1.3- The student identifies major and minor elements of the plot (e.g., conflict, crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution, rising action, falling action, subplots, parallel episodes) and explains how these elements relate to another.

2.1.5- The student identifies the use of literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashback, figurative language, irony, metaphor, tone/mood, symbolism).

2.2.8- The student compares and contrasts customs and ideas within literature representing a variety of cultures.

2.2.9- The student recognizes connections between cultures and experiences through a variety of texts.

A Note on the Text

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This novel addresses the Holocaust including the disturbing realities of Mr. Mandelbaum's experiences. It includes examples of inhumane treatment of individuals and groups including genocide.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities