

Unit/Learning Segment: World War II and the Holocaust - Lesson 1 (Grades 8-11)

Topic: How individuals respond to people in need

Aim: How do individuals and groups identify and demonstrate their “universe of obligation”?

Prerequisite Knowledge: General knowledge of World War II and Hitler’s goal for world domination and the extermination of the Jewish race.

Educational Standards:

NYS Standards:

2 - World History

5 - Civics/Citizenship/Government

NCSS Standards:

III - People/Places/Environments

V - Individuals/Groups/Institutions

VI - Power/Authority/Governance

X - Civic/Ideals/Practices

Common Core Standards:

SL6 - Use digital media to enhance understanding and add interest

L2 - Demonstrate command of conventions (capitalization, punctuation, spelling)

Student Objectives: (Students will be able to - SWBAT)

1. Access the italyandtheholocaust.org website to view 3-5 minute excerpts of six main character (up-standers, victims and rescuers) from the documentary film.
2. Complete the accompanying worksheet and cite evidence from the film to support their answers.
3. Explain the meaning of “universe of obligation” and how those in the film demonstrated their obligation.

Materials Needed:

1. Video clip from **My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust**
2. Website access - italyandtheholocaust.org
3. Documentary Character Segments Worksheet

Information/Content to be covered:

My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust is a feature length documentary. The excerpts to be viewed provide insight into the stories of desperation and courage. Also explored is the concept of “universe of obligation” (how some viewed their obligation to help those in need).

Introductory Activity and Procedures:

The teacher might introduce the lesson/concept of “universe of obligation” by asking students:

1. Are we our brother’s keepers?
2. Have you ever helped someone in need?
3. How might you decide who to help?
4. Would you help someone whom you didn’t know?

Developmental Activity and Procedures:

View the excerpts of individual stories of desperation and courage and complete the accompanying worksheet.

Concluding Activity:

To what extent can the stories in the film relate to the current refugee crisis?

Directions: Read the questions before viewing the documentary. Use the documentary “**My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust**” to **provide evidence** to answer the following questions.

My Italian Secret - Character Segments Worksheet

1. *Identify one segment that is a primary source and one segment that is a secondary source.*
2. *Provide one positive example and one negative example of how some Italians treated the Jews during the Holocaust.*
3. *Describe three ways in which Italian rescuers helped the Jews during the Holocaust.*
4. *In your opinion, which of the six individual characters in the documentary, displayed the most courage. (Explain the reason for your answer.)*
5. *Can the experiences of the people portrayed in the documentary be related to the current refugee crisis? (Explain)*