

## Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27

### Global Themes

- Social Justice

### Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about Holocaust Remembrance Day and the specific rights of the child highlighted by this UN Day (all articles, in particular Article 2).

### Background Information for Teachers

Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

[vhec.org/teaching.html](http://vhec.org/teaching.html)

### Grades

K – 3

### Materials

Book entitled *The Harmonica* by Tony Johnston

### Activity

- Begin by introducing January 27<sup>th</sup> as Holocaust Remembrance Day; a UN Day highlighted around the world. Ask if the students have heard of the Holocaust. Record the background knowledge of the students and acknowledge the sensitive nature of the topic.
- Explain the Holocaust in age-appropriate language.
- Read aloud from the book *The Harmonica* to the end of the page that reads, “Somewhere outside a war was raging. But it was far away – a bad dream – leaving us untouched.”
- Discuss the rights of the child to have a safe environment. How did his family provide for the boy’s safety? Discuss the importance of family as a right of the child and how this family worked together to find joy in a difficult time.
- Discuss the power of music to overcome adversity.

OPTIONAL for older students:

- Read to the end of the book if appropriate for your student population. Discuss.

### Discussion

When you listen to music how does it make you feel? What emotions can you identify?

Do different types of music draw out different feelings? Give an example.

**Extensions**

Individually, or in groups, have students make their own musical instruments. Prepare a song to share with the class, and identify the emotions that the song elicits.

Research Schubert and other composers. Listen to classical music in class and identify the effect of music on learning, and how it relates to emotions.

For Older Students

Read the 'About the Book' description on the last page of *The Harmonica* to the students. Link this true story to other true stories and biographies of young people overcoming adversity; for example, Terry Fox. Explore the genre of biography.

**Additional Resources**

TeacherVision website

[teachervision.fen.com/holocaust/teacher-resource/6630.html](http://teachervision.fen.com/holocaust/teacher-resource/6630.html)

