

COURAGEOUS PEOPLE AND ACTS OF MORAL COURAGE: A MULTI-NATIONAL PROJECT

Lesson Plan Title	Courageous People and Acts of Moral Courage
Name & School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirstin Lakeberg, Marie-Kahle-Gesamtschule, Bonn, Germany • Nance Adler, Jewish Day School of Metro Seattle, Seattle, WA, USA • Brittany Brown, Jamestown Middle School, Greensboro, NC, USA • Multiple schools in Europe – varies each year
Course	Social Studies, History, English (ESL), Jewish Social Studies
Primary Category	Civil Society, Ethics, English,
Grade Level	Grade 5 to 11
Total Required Time	Three class periods for introduction – time for student work – 1-2 periods for presentations – additional time if sharing out projects from other schools
Summary	Students work on the questions of “what is an act of moral courage” and “what is required to act courageously”. They explore the past and the present to discover courageous acts and/or courageous people.
Enduring Understanding	The courageous and moral acts of ordinary individuals are required to maintain civil society.
Goals	<p>By working on the topic "moral courage" students ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... learn about people acting courageously in the past, ... consider their motivation, ... assess the risks that they faced ... work out criteria for “moral courage”, ... compare/contrast them to standard definitions of courage, ... create a class definition of “moral courage”, ... look for examples of acts of moral courage in the past and the present that fit the class definition, ... present their examples for past and present acts of courage on two A4-posters, ... learn about moral courage in other places by comparing their posters to those of students from other countries, ... realize that you do not have to be special to commit an act of moral courage, ... realize that many acts of moral courage go unnoticed, ...
Sources	<p>Films</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matilda Kalef: Three Promises http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema/matilda-kalef-three-promises?subtitle_language= • Return to Rivne: A Holocaust Story http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema/return-rivne-holocaust-story • Miksa Domonkos: The Mayor who Worked in Hell http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema/miksa-domonkos-mayor-who-worked-hell?subtitle_language= <p>Internet-databases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centropa interviews: http://www.centropa.org/search-our-database-jewish-memory • Yad Vashem, Righteous among the Nations http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/righteous/index.asp
Lesson(s)	<p>1. Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a number of photos of well-known courageous people, i.e. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Ghandi, Nelson Mandela, Marie Kahle, Graf Staufenberg, New York City firefighter, (each teacher should select individuals that their students will know – local heroes encouraged) ... => What have all these people got in common?

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	<p>=> What is an act of courage? Are there different kinds of courage? Are courage and bravery the same thing?</p> <p>=> Work out a first working-definition.</p> <p>2. New Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present one (or more) of the Centropa-films.• While-viewing task: (students should have paper and pencil) <p>=> Note questions that might arise while watching the film and after.</p> <p>=> Who has acted courageously according to your definition and in your opinion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post-viewing <p>=> Clear open questions.</p> <p>=> List and discuss people who have acted courageously (see task above).</p> <p>=> Revise your definition of an act of courage.</p> <p>3. Transfer</p> <p>=> Do you know of any other people who have acted courageously in the past and in the present?</p> <p>=> Look for more examples of courageous people in the past and in the present.</p> <p>=> Each student should decide on two people, one who acted courageously in the past, one of the present. Research these people.</p> <p>=> Present each of these two people on an A4-poster.</p> <p>Your poster should contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">full name of the persona photo of the personbrief demographic information about the person (DOB, where they live, date of death if they are dead, any other interesting details)what she/he did (give good details)why you think of it as an act of moral couragehow what they did changed a situation or why it was important (why did you pick them?) <p>All information and the photo should be on one side of the paper.</p> <p>Hand in your posters.</p> <p>==> Teachers scan posters and mails (emails?) them together with the class's definition of an "act of moral courage" to the other teachers! Also add a photo/short video of you and your class and some information about your school.</p> <p>4. Conclusion</p> <p>=> Present your posters to your class (gallery walk, individual presentations etc.).</p> <p>=> Compare your examples of courageous acts with those of students from abroad.</p> <p>=> What is similar, what is different?</p> <p>==> Put up all the posters on a public wall in your school and create a "Wall of Courage"</p>
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