

Lesson Plan on Kitty and Otto Suschny

Overview information

- title: The ones who got away: Kindertransports, hidden families and refugees
- names of the participants: Ettie Abraham, Sylvia Asher, Britta Elkmann, Anna Politou
- course the lesson is taught in: English or History Class in High School
- primary category: Holocaust
- grade level: High School students
- required time: 4-5 45 minute lessons

Summary

By using the story of Kitty and Otto Suschny we teach our students about how children could be saved during the Holocaust. We will use the Kitty and Otto Suschny film, their interviews and biography as well as the Vienna Source books.

Background information

1. **Context for Lesson:** It fits into the required teaching of the Holocaust and World War II in High School History
2. **Enduring Understanding:** The concept of being helped and helping others in difficult situations and therefore stressing the importance of human values and moral responsibility.
3. **Goals/objectives:**
 - a. humanitarian values
 - b. historical knowledge
 - c. group work, research and presentation skills
 - d. being aware and apply their moral responsibility
4. **Sources:**
 - a. Film "Only a couple of streets away from each other" (Kitty and Otto Suschny)
 - b. Interviews from Kitty and Otto Suschny (<http://www.centropa.org/pictures-stories?type%5B%5D=biography&title=Suschny#collapsed>)
 - c. **Vienna source book:** various chapters and background information on Kindertransports, living in post-war Vienna etc.
 - d. **additional research** in the groups
5. **Background knowledge:** Students will have learnt about the life of Jews in Vienna until "Reichskristallnacht"

The Lesson

1. Show the film Kitty & Otto Suschny.
2. While watching the film, students will choose an aspect that he/she can connect to or what was most striking for them. (Teacher chooses whether to give students complete freedom in choosing the aspects or to provide guidance)
3. The results are presented and clustered together
4. Groupwork on elected topics (these can be shortened or added)
 - a. kindertransports
 - b. immigration to Palestine
 - c. assimilation and Jewish life within Austrian society
 - d. help from others (S.S. man, British families, Jewish organizations)
5. Group gets time for further research: rewatch the film, read the biography and interviews, read sources provided on background information (from the Source book) in order to prepare presentations on their topic

6. Present your groupwork topic by: PPT ,film, a speech, pictures etc.
7. After the presentations the class will create together a timeline and a map with everything they have learned about Kitty and Otto Suschny
8. Optional: make a connection to nowadays refugee problem and discuss possibilities to help