

Hope Chest

Remembering the Holocaust



Teacher's Guide

Welcome to Hope Chest

Remembering the Holocaust

For Oskar. The lessons of love, respect, and perseverance passed down from your parents to you will eternally ignite sparks of hope for generations to come and inspire us to be the best versions of ourselves. On behalf of the thousands of lives you have touched, including my own, thank you.

Hope Chest: Remembering the Holocaust

Written by Christine Harthun, residency & curriculum coordinator,
Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation

Co-developed with educators Heidi Cocco and Patti Mastropolo

Based on *A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory: Surviving the Holocaust 1933–1945* by Oskar Knoblauch.

Hope Chest: Remembering the Holocaust content created in collaboration with and express permission granted by Oskar Knoblauch.

Produced by:

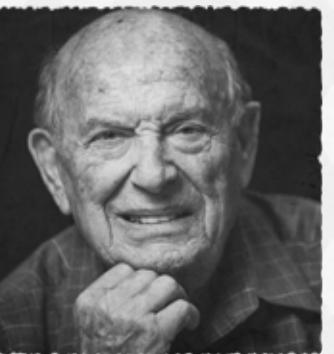


Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation
7380 East Second St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For more information on Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation's education programming, please visit ScottsdaleArtsLearning.org.

Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and Scottsdale Public Art are branches of Scottsdale Arts. Copyright © 2021 Scottsdale Arts. All rights reserved.

This project is funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix.



Hope Chest takes students on an immersive journey through one young man's harrowing experiences during the Holocaust. Oskar Knoblauch was just 7 years old, living in Leipzig, Germany, when Hitler and the Nazi Party came into power. Three years later, he and his family fled to Kraków, Poland, in an attempt to escape Nazi anti-Semitic persecution. On the morning of September 1, 1939, 13-year-old Oskar recalls the sounds of German bombers flying low over the rooftops, releasing destruction on Kraków's railway station and buildings throughout the city. This was the beginning of the "war whose effects would be felt throughout the world for many decades to come."¹ *A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory: Remembering the Holocaust 1933–1945* tells the story of his family's struggle to survive by working together and guided

by lessons of respect, hope, and giving 110%. He attributes his survival to the help of upstanders—individuals who acted upon what was right and helped when possible, even if it meant putting their own lives at risk.

Hope Chest is an engaging teaching resource, designed to meet English language arts (ELA) and social studies standards, using critical thinking, inquiry, and arts integration strategies while supporting social emotional learning (SEL). Lessons target 7th grade standards and is appropriate for grades 7 and up. The unit is guided by the essential questions:

- How do we form and shape our individual identities?
- How do our decisions help guide our individual paths?

This contemporary perspective creates empowering and relevant text-to-self connections for students to embark on dynamic learning. Students will engage directly with the content and build 21st century learning skills through a variety of interactives, including Socratic seminar, tableau, photo analysis, and six-word story. These strategies are wonderful resources that can be added to your teacher's toolbox for use across your curriculum.

Hope Chest organizes *A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory* into thematic sections. Each section of the teacher's guide opens with a guiding question to prepare students for the reading, followed by a lesson overview of vocabulary, historical events, and a list of characters introduced within each section. An answer key corresponding to Hope Chest student journals includes vocabulary, questions, and journal-writing prompts. Students will complete one section of the Hope Chest student journal concurrently with the reading. Critical thinking arts activities inspire students to engage with the reading and promote deeper understanding of the material. Activities are often completed together in class and may require additional materials, such as paint, photographs, or digital music or video files. Most materials required to complete activities are included within Hope Chest.

The Holocaust and events of World War II are complex and emotionally charged. Oskar's compelling firsthand account of a young person's indomitable determination to survive this pivotal and tragic time in history is raw and relatable for young readers. Hope Chest is an opportunity to cultivate creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking in a safe, supportive, and collaborative classroom environment. More profoundly, students will develop lifelong lessons of empathy, perseverance, and tolerance, and will be empowered with the knowledge that the decisions they make impact the world around them and guide them on their path through life.

Content Overview

While the Holocaust is a complex and sensitive subject, it provides abundant opportunity to empower students with the knowledge that they can positively impact the world every day through their choices and actions. *Hope Chest*'s step-by-step, student-centered lesson plans teach a segment of Holocaust history through a survivor's firsthand experience while developing critical and creative thinkers and empowering active and empathetic community members.

Safe Space

Oskar's story may stir emotional responses from some students. Additionally, throughout the unit, students will be asked to share journal entries from their *Hope Chest* student journals. Prior to beginning this journey, it is recommended that, as a class community, you work together to set behavioral expectations. This may take the form of a classroom contract.² If you have already created a classroom contract, this may be a good time to revisit expectations. An important tenant to include is that respect will be shown at all times. Respect is a credo for Oskar throughout *A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory*.

Lesson Prep

Hope Chest includes techniques for building curiosity and reading comprehension through surprising anticipatory sets, inspiring arts integration activities, and engaging pre-teaching lessons. To begin, review daily lesson plans and, if possible, read corresponding chapters to prepare curriculum connections you would like to pre-teach or materials you may need to organize. Vocabulary, relevant historical events, and themes are listed in the lesson overview of each section. Also, parts of Oskar's story may stir strong emotions for some readers. A few chapters that include intense content are identified at the beginning of each section in the lesson overview. You may wish to discuss the content together in advance, read these chapters to the class, and/or reflect to address questions.

Building "Classroom Community"³

Throughout the unit, students will engage in group activities and discussions. Journal prompts in each section ask students to make predictions or connect text to self through a personal experience. Drawing directly from themes found in *A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory*, students will explore the material through social emotional skill-building writing prompts (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships, and decision-making).⁴ Sharing memories and perspectives on themes such as hope, perseverance, and overcoming adversity generates connections to both the text and each other. Students will also be asked to share and discuss their questions and take part in Socratic seminar. This student-guided discussion will use an open-ended question to analyze and interpret elements of the reading. Together, these techniques help contribute to a strong "classroom community" by building trust and relationships in an environment where students feel vested, empowered, and respected.

Arts and Active Learning

Each section of *Hope Chest* incorporates a critical-thinking arts activity. These arts-integrated lessons can be used to introduce or close the section. When used as a pre-reading activity, they build excitement around the story and aid in comprehension. You will discover a variety of fun and memorable approaches to learning, including music to inspire imagery and sensory language, photo analysis, poetry, and storyboarding.

Assessment

Hope Chest includes several methods of formative assessment and a final summative assessment. Throughout the unit, students will demonstrate understanding through Socratic seminar, tableau, and written responses. The final reflection can be done in a couple of ways. One option is the final journal in Section 10. Students are asked to write three-paragraph journal entries as if they are Oskar, looking back on their experiences during the war. "What have you learned over the past several years? How has the war changed you? How can you use your experience to help others in the future?" Another option is to have students write a three- to five-paragraph essay in response to *Hope Chest*'s essential questions: "How do we form and shape our individual identities?" and "How do our decisions help guide our individual paths?" Each option would require students to support their answers with quotes and/or examples from the text. A rubric is provided.