

LESSON PLAN Ages 10 – 12

Resource: Book – *Rose Blanche*, by Roberto Innocenti and Ian McEwan

Preliminary note on the resource: The book focuses on the Holocaust, in particular concentration camps. This may be a trigger for children whose families have recently fled political violence and teachers should exercise caution when discussing the issues.

Aim / learning intention: To learn about the Holocaust; to learn about how ordinary people can both be accomplices with oppressive regimes and genocidal acts, as well as oppose both in whatever way they can; to have confidence in standing up for what is right; to think about the type of narratives used to justify genocidal programmes.

Beginning: Write the words, 'Holocaust', 'Genocide' and 'Concentration Camps' on the board. Ask the class if they know what these mean.

Main activity:

If possible have the children split into groups and read the book between themselves so they can see the illustrations in detail.

Read the text out loud once more to the entire class.

Ask the children what they feel about what Rose did.

Ask the children why they think Rose cheered at the beginning of the war?

Do they see any parallels with more recent wars / events?

Ask the consider what they would have done in Rose's place?

Introduce the idea of camps as part of genocidal programmes. You can include Boer War, the Herero and Namaqua genocides, the war in Bosnia.

Ask them to consider what reasons people like the Mayor would have used to justify what as being done. Ask them to think about the reasons Rose's mum or other people in the town did not take action or try to find out what was going on.



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Ask the children to consider what it must be like to find yourself in a camp. Ask them to consider the reasons that might have been used to justify putting them in camps.

Ask them to consider if they heard similar language today about 'other' people.

Learning Outcomes: To understand the dangers of 'otherisation' language; to be confident in standing up for the right thing; to make connections between types of violence and genocide.



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