

# Curriculum Lesson

## Plans for

## "She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots"

North Carolina's first Women's Holocaust Memorial, "She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots," an original sculpture by Victoria Milstein honors the strength and resilience of all women. It honors not only the thousands of women and children who were killed in an Einsatzgruppen action in Liepaja, Latvia on December 15, 1941, but also Eva Weiner and Sofia Guralnik, the brave women who saved their children, Shelly Weiner and Raya Kizhnerman, by hiding them in Nazi-occupied Poland for almost two years. Installed on April 18, 2023, in LeBauer Park in Greensboro, NC, the monument is the focus of these lesson plans, created to assist teachers in helping students understand the importance of memorializing the Holocaust and honoring those who suffered during this dark time in history. These classroom-tested lessons were created as a collaborative effort by veteran Holocaust educator and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Teacher Fellow Laurie Schaefer and renowned artist Victoria Milstein, the creator of the "She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots" sculpture. These lessons can each be taught on their own or as a unit in English, Social Studies, or Arts classes and can be adapted to both middle and high school classes. Field trip plans are also included as one of the lessons if teachers are able to bring students to the memorial in downtown Greensboro.

### LESSON 4:

## THE PAST IN THE PRESENT: CREATING A MEMORIAL

*For this final lesson in the series, students will create their own memorial using a photograph from the Holocaust as their inspiration. From creating a plan and researching materials, cost, and locations to designing a 2D or 3D interpretation of the model, students will propose that their memorial be installed on their own school campus. Through presentations, gallery walks, or peer evaluation activities, students will share their memorials with their class and each class will vote on the memorials that they believe should be put on their campus. If a teacher wishes to pursue installing one of the memorials on the campus, ideas for how to fund it are also given at the end of the lesson plan.*

#### Materials for Making Models of Memorials:

- Cardboard
- Tape (Scotch and masking tape)
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Air dry clay
- Craft wire
- Canvas
- Foam board
- Drawing paper
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons
- White and black construction paper
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun

#### Student Handouts:

- [Google slides Memorial Plan for Students](#)
- [Peer Evaluation Student Handout](#)

#### Objectives:

- Students will explore topics that they have studied from the Holocaust and find one historical photograph as inspiration for their own memorial.



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### LESSON 4: THE PAST IN THE PRESENT: CREATING A MEMORIAL CONTINUED

- Students will research about one person, event, or group in the Holocaust and apply that research to a hands-on project that will benefit their school community.
- Students will use persuasive techniques and presentation skills to create a plan to convince others that their memorial should be installed on their school campus.

#### Length of Lesson:

- 3-4 class periods

#### USHMM Guidelines:

- #7: Avoid romanticizing history.
- #9: Translate statistics into people.

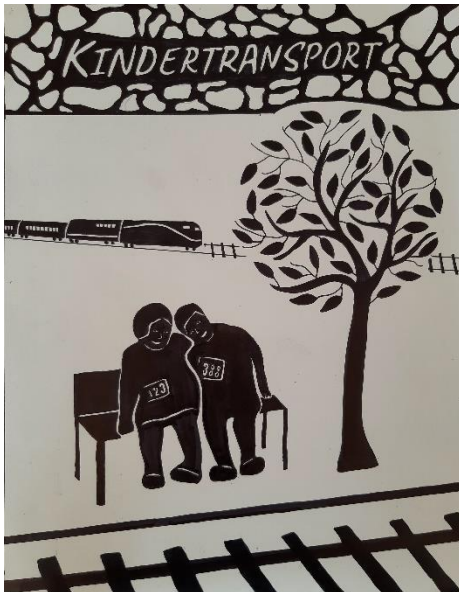
#### Synopsis of Lesson:

- Begin this lesson by sharing a copy of the Creating a Memorial Plan Google slides presentation with each of the students and then have them follow the directions in the slide to research a specific topic, person, event, or group in the Holocaust and find a historical photograph that they will use as their inspiration for their own memorial.
- After each student has found the photograph and put in on the slide provided, then have them pair up with at least one other student and brainstorm ways that they can use that photograph to design a memorial that could be installed on their own school campus. The pairs should help each other consider whether it will be a 2D or 3D memorial and what kinds of materials that they would use to create the memorial, considering that they only have \$1,000 for the entire project.
- Once each student has a starting point, they should work through the rest of the slides in the presentation, building their plan for the memorial.
- After the plan is completed, students can then begin working on creating a small version of their memorial to bring the vision alive for potential donors. They can choose to draw or paint it, make a model, or even a black and white paper cutout model of it. Have materials on hand to help them work in class to create their models, drawings, or paintings. They can also work on it at home and bring it in a week later for presentations.
- Once students are done and have their Google slides plan and model/painting/drawing ready, either have them each present to the class or do a gallery walk with peer evaluations. Use the peer evaluation rubric handout linked in the lesson introduction. At the end of this activity, students will narrow all of the memorials down to their top three and then the one that they believe would be the best to put on their school campus. Use these votes to help determine which one memorial would be the best one to help students at your school connect to the lessons of the Holocaust and combat antisemitism.
- If you want to install the winning memorial on your campus, first talk to your principal to see what steps would need to be taken to get approval for this. It may involve talking to school board members, who may need to vote on approving it. Also, consider doing fundraisers for the memorial or writing a grant to get it funded. Asking students, staff, and community members to just donate \$1 each to raise money so that you have 1,000 people who supported it could also be a great way to get people involved and raise awareness about the topic and the project. *See examples of projects on the next page.*



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## Kindertransport Memorial



This memorial is meant to be cut out of sheet metal and installed in a common area at the school. The student did a 2D black and white paper cutout to give an idea of what it would look like.

[Access the Google slides presentation here](#)

*Shared with permission of William Anderson, student at Mount Tabor High*

## A Suitcase of Roses



This 3D model made out of clay and paint is a creation of a memorial that would honor both the Kindertransport and the White Rose Movement.

[Access the Google slides presentation here](#)

*Shared with permission of Haley Warren, student at Mount Tabor High*