
Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey Project - Teaching Resources

Center 2 Directions

In this activity, you will write a poem in two voices. A two voice poem is a style of poetry in which two people perform together, reading it as a conversation from different perspectives. You have read the story of Josef, a young boy who survived the events of Kristallnacht in his hometown of Hamberg, Germany, travelled aboard the MS St. Louis to Havana, Cuba, was turned away and sent to France with his mother and sister. You will read a short biography of Dr. Hans Fischer, a Holocaust survivor that also survived the events of Kristallnacht and traveled aboard the St. Louis as a young boy.

Your task is to create a two voice poem; one voice is that of Josef and the other of Hans Fischer. Follow the links below for your reference. First, review the instructions and rubric for this task. Then, read the biographical information about Dr. Fischer. Before you start brainstorming your own poem, listen to and read the sample poems linked below.

- [Grading Rubric](#)
- [Venn Diagram](#)
- [Biographical information about Hans Fischer, a Holocaust Survivor of Southern New Jersey](#)
- [Sample poem worksheet](#)
- [Corresponding sample video](#)

Conduct a close read of the Holocaust survivor biography that you have been assigned. Highlight and underline important information as you go through the text. As you read, take notes in the margins that you can look back on as you construct your poem.

On your venn diagram, label one side as Josef, and the other side with Hans Fischer. Starting with the side of the chart labeled for the survivor, list the important information you have underlined from the biography. On Josef's side of the chart, provide information about him that is the opposite of the survivors, for example his birth year, birth place, or language(s) spoken. In the center of the chart, list any similarities between the two figures.

When you have finished pulling out information from the biography, begin constructing your poem. The poem should read like a conversation between the two figures. The poem should be rhythmic, and fluid. The lines you want spoken independently should be in the respective column and the lines you want spoken in unison should be in the middle column, on its own line, underlined or bold.

You will be performing your poem to your classmates, so run through it multiple times out loud with a partner to be sure it is smooth. When it is your turn to perform, you and your partner should be loud and performative, clear in your lines and cohesive when in unison.

Type the final draft of your poem in the space below.