

# Remembering the Holocaust



## Characters:

Mr. Adams, Mia, David, Josh, Amy, Lisa

## Setting:

An elementary school classroom

*A group of students sit quietly at their desks in their classroom. The mood is serious, somber. They have just returned from a field trip to a Holocaust museum, where they saw an exhibit that included photos and videos of Holocaust survivors speaking about their experiences. MR. ADAMS, the teacher, walks to the front of the class.*

**MR. ADAMS:** Let's take some time to talk about our field trip. Does anyone have any questions or comments to share?

*The students shift uncomfortably in their seats and don't speak.*

**MIA** (takes a breath and taps her pencil on her desk):

That whole wall of photos was . . . it surprised me a little.

**MR. ADAMS:** Why is that?

**MIA:** I think it made the Holocaust feel more real to me.

Before, when we've learned about how the Nazis treated Jewish people in Europe, it was just words and numbers on the page. Like, I knew that six million people died, but now I've seen actual pictures of many of those people.

**DAVID** (speaking very quietly): Yeah, and so many of them were just kids.

*The other students nod in agreement.*

**DAVID:** They hadn't done anything, and they probably didn't really know what was going on.

**MIA:** Right. Before the war, they had perfectly normal lives.

**JOSH:** And then they just suddenly weren't allowed to go to school or to the movies or to the park.

**AMY:** It seems like all those rules were made for no reason. Why didn't anyone fight back?

**JOSH:** Some people did. They went into hiding or joined the resistance.

**AMY:** What about everyone else? Millions of people died.

**MR. ADAMS:** Lots of people have asked that question, Amy. What do the rest of you think? Why might people have hesitated to fight back?

**DAVID:** I think they were scared.

**MIA:** And it was illegal. They could be killed for going against the Nazis.

**MR. ADAMS:** Yes, the Nazis were very powerful. They had a lot of influence on people's thoughts and actions during that time.

**JOSH** (*thoughtfully*): One of the survivors, in the video, she said that she fought back just by surviving.

*LISA has been quiet until now, listening to the other students. She slowly raises her hand. MR. ADAMS gestures for her to speak.*

**LISA:** I've been thinking about those survivor videos. Some of those people had such a hard time speaking about their experiences. It's so painful for them to remember that time. So why are people filming them and putting it in a museum for everyone to see?

**JOSH:** I think they still want people to know what happened. The survivors think it's important to share their stories.

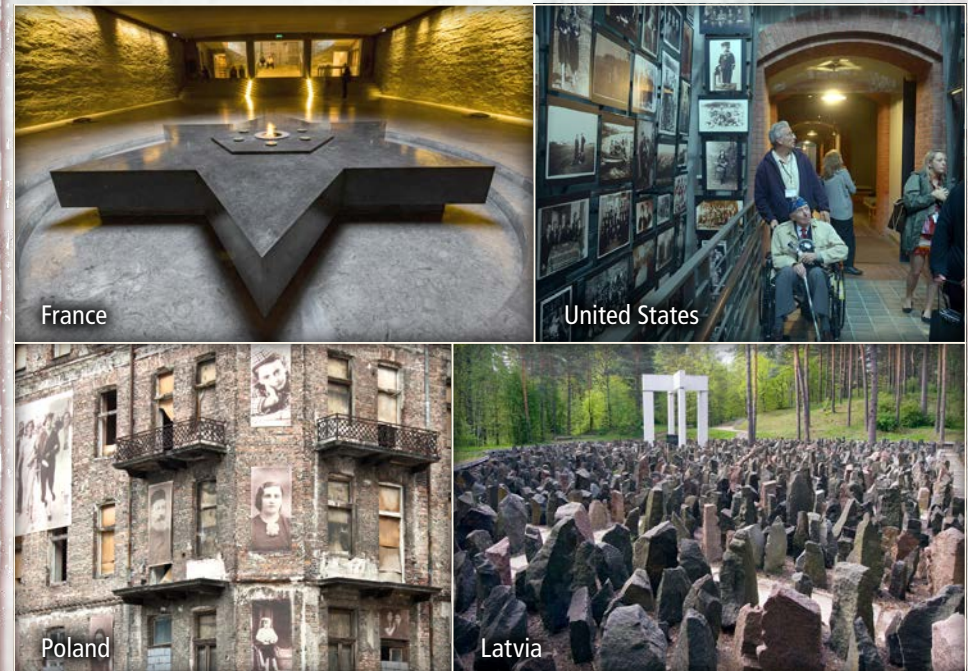
**MR. ADAMS** (*nodding*): Why do you think it's important for us to know this history?

*The students fall silent, considering the question. The scene fades to black.*

## Holocaust Museums

In 1933, the Nazi Party came to power in Germany. The party considered Jewish people and others, such as those with physical and mental disabilities, to be inferior and persecuted them. When World War II began in 1939, Germany invaded other parts of Europe. German soldiers forced Jewish people and others to live in crowded, unsanitary conditions in cities or sent them to labor and concentration camps. Many Jewish people were killed in these camps or died from disease and hunger. By the time the war ended in 1945, six million Jewish people and millions of others had been killed.

Holocaust survivors opened the first Holocaust museum in Israel in 1949. In the following years, other museums were created in Israel, Europe, and around the world. These museums seek to preserve the memories of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust through photos, written records, objects, and video interviews.



Above are a few examples of museums and memorials around the world that honor the millions of people affected by the Holocaust.