

'After the War' History lesson 5: What happened to 'The Boys' after the Holocaust?

After the War: Windermere

Lesson objective: To secure knowledge and understanding of what was lost in the Holocaust and the impact that the experiences at Windermere had upon some of 'The Boys'.

Citizenship focus: Students should be taught about diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding. Students should be taught about the precious liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United Kingdom

Starter / Stimuli: film & photographs

Use the film and the images in slides 3 -6 as stimuli. Show the short film to your students first (2.02 min) <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/rare-footage-of-young-holocaust-survivors-on-their-way-to-britain> Encourage students to consider the following: What can they see? What is happening in the film? What impression does the film give us of 'The Boys'?

Share the photographs with students. Students can examine these as a class or in smaller groups. Encourage them to consider the following questions: What can you see? Who is in the photographs? What are they doing? What can we infer from these photographs about 'The Boys' experiences at Windermere? What questions do you have?*

Share the context of the stimuli with your students: slide 3 – the film footage was shot by an RAF cameraman and shows 'The Boys' boarding Lancaster bomber planes in Prague, Czechoslovakia, for their journey to Britain in the summer of 1945. Slide 4 – this photograph was taken of some of the 300 children on the first flight to Britain on their way to Windermere. They are in the centre of Prague before leaving for the airport. Slides 5 & 6 – these photographs show a number of 'The Boys' enjoying leisure time during their stay at Windermere.

*Throughout the lesson encourage student enquiry. It is likely that students will have lots of questions as they work through this lesson / these lessons: 'What questions do you have?' These can be shared with the class as they progress through the lesson and / or recorded to return to and reflect upon at the end of the lesson/s. Reassure students that these questions will be explored and revisited and that they are going to find out more about how and why the Holocaust ended.

Extracts from 'After the War'

These extracts (slides 8 & 9) cover some of Yossi's experiences of Windermere. Students could read these independently or as a class. Encourage students to answer the following questions (slide 10): 'What can we infer from these extracts about these experiences? How might these experiences have helped them? What questions do you have?'

<p>Testimony of 'The Boys'</p>	<p>Testimony is a spoken or written statement describing an event or experience. Here students will use a selection of short written testimony from 'The Boys', the child Holocaust survivors upon whom the central characters in the novel 'After the War' were based upon (slides 11 - 16).</p> <p>Students could work through the testimonies in small groups, each student reporting back upon one of the testimonies. As they work through them students should be encouraged to answer the following (slide 17): 'What can we learn from this testimony about the experiences of 'The Boys' during their time at Windermere? In what ways does this support our initial inferences from the film, the photographs and the extracts from the novel? What can we learn about the impact of these experiences upon 'The Boys'?'</p>
<p>Historical context: context card 5 'After the War: Windermere.'</p>	<p>Share context card 5: 'After the War: Windermere.' with your students. This can be read together as a class or independently. Students should write or discuss their responses to the following questions (slide 18):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Jewish people died in the Holocaust? 2. 'That children survived the Holocaust at all was very unusual.' Find evidence to support this statement. 3. Describe the scheme under which 'The Boys' were sent to Windermere.
<p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p>	<p>Having gained knowledge and understanding about the experiences of these child survivors of the Holocaust students could write a paragraph to support the following statement (slide 19):</p> <p>'We all have a responsibility to help victims of persecution, genocide and war.'</p>