THE HISTORY BEHIND
THE HOLOCAUST
AND ANNE FRANK
STEPS TO THIS GENOCIDE:

Genocide is defined as "the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group".

- Prejudice is an attitude.
- Discrimination is an act.
  - The Nazi government sponsored a boycott of Jewish businesses that lasted three days and brought international outrage which caused Hitler to end this boycott.
  - He didn’t like negative attention from world governments.
**THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**

- Anneliesse Marie Frank was born on June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany.
- The second daughter of Otto and Edith Frank.
- Anne and her older sister, Margot, were born in the post-World War 1 era. Along with their parents they were German citizens under the laws of the Weimar Republic (1918-33).
In 1933, Hitler (head of the Nazi Party) was named Chancellor of Germany.
Germany was in an economic pitfall after WWI.
The Franks decided to move to Amsterdam in the Netherlands, which had been neutral during World War I.
The Netherlands had the reputation of being a safe haven for religious minorities. Otto Frank left for Amsterdam first. He established a branch of his uncle's company called the "Opekta Works" which was a jam making company.
GOING INTO HIDING

• "Margot and I started packing our most important belongings into a school bag. The first thing I stuck in was this diary...Preoccupied by the thought of going into hiding, I stuck the craziest things into the bag, but I'm not sorry. Memories mean more to me than dresses." –Anne Frank

• People were told they were being “relocated” and that they could only bring one bag.
HITLER WANTED TO ACHIEVE AN “ARYAN NATION”

• An Aryan was supposed to be a person of pure Teutonic German background with distinct racial characteristics including fair skin.

• In Mein Kampf (My Struggle), Hitler wrote about the war between the Aryan and non-Aryan races. Hitler planned to kill all people he considered non-Aryan.
A TERM YOU SHOULD KNOW... GESTAPO

The Secret Police of the Third Reich, which used terror and torture to eliminate political opposition in Germany. The Gestapo also orchestrated the arrest and deportation of Jews.
Jewish children were hidden from the Nazis during World War II. Anne Frank’s situation was unusual in that she was able to hide with her entire family and remain in one place for over two years. Most children were separated from family members and had to move frequently.
IN ADDITION TO THE JEWS, WHO WERE THE NAZIS’ OTHER VICTIMS?

5 million others perished under Nazi persecution:
- Gypsies
- Jehovah’s Witnesses
- Homosexuals
- Poles, Slavs, and Serbs
- Political prisoners and political opponents
- Resistance fighters
- The physically and mentally handicapped/disabled
- People of non-white skin (EX: African Germans)
- Habitual criminals
**HOW DID THE NAZIS KNOW WHO WAS JEWISH?**

- Census in 1933 had “race” as a category.
- Their clothes, habits, and practices made them look different.
- Synagogues and temples kept birth, marriage, and death records.
- Neighbors and friends turned on them after the Nazis took over, so they could claim rewards.
- I.D. cards labeled Jews with a “J” after the Nuremberg laws went into effect.
- Jews were later required to sew yellow Stars of David to all outer clothing, so they could be easily identified on sight.
The first of a series of book burnings aimed at erasing the literary and scientific contributions of intellectuals and Jews.
BOYCOTT OF JEWISH BUSINESS
WHY DIDN’T THEY RESIST MORE?

• They did resist (Warsaw ghetto uprising)
• Deception by the Nazis (postcards sent home, flowers at the train depots, etc.)
• They didn’t know who the enemy was
• In denial because they’d experienced anti-Semitism as a people throughout history
• Collective responsibility
• Few weapons (Weimar laws prevented citizens from being armed due to losing WWI)
• Dehumanization
MEIN KAMPF
(MY STRUGGLE)

• Adolf Hitler’s autobiography, written during his imprisonment in 1924. Mein Kampf details his plan to restore Germany to its former greatness and to make Europe judenrein.
Now that Jews have no rights because they are no longer citizens, the Nazis attempt to destroy all Jewish businesses and culture. On the night of Kristallnacht, Nazis burned Jewish homes, businesses, places of worship, and even destroyed special burial grounds.
ANTI-SEMITISM/HASTY GENERALIZATION PROPAGANDA

• Jews accounted for less than 1% of the German population when Hitler took over.

• During the Weimar Republic before Hitler took power, of the 230 cabinet positions in Berlin, only 7 were held by Jews.

• Yet Jews were thought to possess all the power and wealth in Germany after WWI.
DESTRUCTION OF A JEWISH CEMETERY
JEWISH PEOPLE NO LONGER LIVED AMONG GENTILES AND WERE FORCED TO LIVE IN GHETTOS.

The situation in the ghettos was brutal. In Warsaw Poland, 30 percent of the population was forced to live in 2.4 percent of the city's area, a density of 7.2 people per room.
OVER 400 GHETTOS WERE CREATED OUTSIDE OF GERMANY IN EASTERN EUROPE.
SCENES FROM THE GHETTOS
REMOVAL TO THE CAMPS

- **Transit Camps** - Westerbork held the Franks and Drancy in Paris was an apartment building holding Children

- **Concentration Camps** - Dachau outside Munich, Germany was the first and held political prisoners and was opened March 22, 1933

- **Labor Camps** - Worked for 3 months (Doctors calculated the number of calories they needed each day to stay alive)

- **Death Camps** - These were concentration camps with special apparatus designed for systematic murder. (All of these camps were outside of Germany in Poland.)
JEWS BEING DEPORTED FROM THE WARSAW GHETTO TO THE DEATH CAMPS
THE DEATH CAMPS (ALL IN POLAND)

- Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Treblinka
- Sobibor
- Chelmno
- Belzec
- Majdanek
“WORK MAKES YOU FREE”
SELECTION AT AUSCHWITZ
LIBERATION: 1944-1945
LIFE BEGINS AGAIN ELSEWHERE
NUREMBERG TRIALS
NOV. 20, 1945-OCT. 1, 1946

• American prosecutors picked the spiritual center of the Third Reich, Nuremberg, for the trials.
• Trials were held at the Palace of Justice
• It was an international tribunal to try war crimes. (U.S., France, Britain, and Russia)
• This was unique because crimes committed during wartime had never been considered crimes before.
• Simon Wiesenthal captured over 1,000 Nazis.
• Goering, Streicher, Speer, Ribbentrop, and Hess were the major defendants.
• Hitler, Himmler, and Goebbels committed suicide rather than face prosecution.
“DESPITE EVERYTHING, I BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE ARE REALLY GOOD AT HEART.”
- ANNE FRANK
Born into a Jewish ghetto in Hungary, as a child, Elie Wiesel was sent to the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald. This is his account of that atrocity: the ever-increasing horrors he endured, the loss of his family and his struggle to survive in a world that stripped him of humanity, dignity and faith. Describing in simple terms the tragic murder of a people from a survivor's perspective, Night is among the most personal, intimate and poignant of all accounts of the Holocaust. A compelling consideration of the darkest side of human nature and the enduring power of hope, it remains one of the most important works of the twentieth century.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION…

- www.museumoftolerance.com
- www.annefrank.org
LITERATURE CIRCLES

HOLOCAUST RELATED LITERATURE

He’s a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He’s a boy who steals food for himself and the orphans. He’s a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels.

He’s a boy who wants to be a Nazi someday, with tall, shiny jackboots and a gleaming eagle hat of his own.

Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind.

And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he’s a boy who realizes it’s safest of all to be nobody.
Annie de Leeuw was eight years old in 1940 when the Germans attacked Holland and marched into the town of Winterswijk where she lived. Annie was ten when she and her sister Sini had to leave their father, mother, and older sister Rachel to hide in the upstairs room of a remote farmhouse. For Annie was Jewish and therefore in great danger, as was the generous Gentile family who took her in. The war can’t last, people said. But for Annie and her sister, confined for over two years in a small, cramped room, the war seemed to go on and on.
When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance.

But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own.
The Book Thief
By Markus Zusak

Narrated by Death, this novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a young foster girl living outside of Munich in Nazi Germany. Liesel scratched out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she discovers something she can’t resist—books. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor’s wife’s library, wherever they are to be found.
Hannah dreads going to her family’s Passover Seder. Her relatives always tell the same stories, and Hannah’s tired of hearing them talk about the past. But when she opens the front door to symbolically welcome the prophet Elijah, she’s transported to a Polish village—and the year 1942. Why is she there, and who is this “Chaya” that everyone seems to think she is? Just as she begins to unravel the mystery, Nazi soldiers come to take everyone in the village away. And only Hannah knows the unspeakable horrors that await.
In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the “Secret Annex” of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.

In her diary, Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.