

One Candle Lesson Plan

Age range: 5 to 12 years

Time needed: 1 hour

Materials: One Candle by Eve Bunting

Procedure:

1. Introduce the book to the class.
 - a. [*for interfaith communities*] If the group is not primarily Jewish, introduce the traditions of Chanukah, primarily the importance of lighting candles and the tradition of cooking *latkes* (potato pancakes). (*Do not actually tell the story of Chanukah – it is not relevant.*)
 - b. Tell the class that there will be time for discussion after the reading and ask them to hold their questions until that time. (*This is a story that really needs an uninterrupted flow.*)
2. Read the story to the class. (*Be sure to show them the pictures.*)
3. Ask for reactions and immediate questions.
 - a. Tell them that the story told by the grandmother is called the Holocaust and that it happened in Europe in the time when their grandparents were young.
 - b. Tell them that this particular book is a story (i.e. not true) but it is based on similar true stories (i.e. things very much like this did happen).
4. Ask them the following questions, guiding their answers as necessary
 - a. Why did this happen to the grandmother?
Guided answer: as it said in the book, the Germans did not like the Jews, or a lot of other people. A lot of people did not like the Jews before that too.
 - b. [*particularly for interfaith communities*] Has this sort of persecution ever happened in your community?
Guided answer: talk to their regular teacher(s) beforehand to get their take, but in many communities, the answer will be yes.
 - c. Has this sort of thing happened since?
Guided answer: yes, there is still antisemitism – not as bad as this but harassment and bullying still happen. This sort of thing has also happened in other communities since then.
 - d. How can we prevent this?
Guided answer: by speaking up against bullying, by being kind to each other.

Extensions:

- Allow the discussion to continue into a broader discussion of kindness and the golden rule.
 - o This discussion will likely turn to bullying, which is a familiar topic to many of the kids. Almost everyone will have experiences with and/or stories to tell about bullying.
- Especially for younger kids (ages 5-8), do a kindness-oriented craft project.
- Especially for older kids (ages 9-12), lead a discussion about the Holocaust.
 - o Ask them what else they know about it and answer their questions.
 - o This is a good activity to do while the younger kids are doing a craft project, which allows you to be age-appropriate with the old kids.