



Light from the Darkness

Yom HaShoah program for Grade 6 and up

This lesson plan was developed by Deborah Fripp for the Teach the Shoah Foundation.

Objective: To memorialize the Holocaust in a way that helps us learn its lessons.

Estimated time: 45 minutes plus discussion time

Essential lessons:

- We must remember both the horrible things that were done to us and the strength with which we met that horror. We must also remember the courage of those who helped us.
- We must take our understanding of what happened to us into the future by working for peace and justice in the world.

Materials:

- *Light from the Darkness* (1 copy per person)
- Two candles and holders: a fancy candlestick and an upside-down cup or jar
- Rosemary sprigs
- Potato skins (*peel the potato, rinse the skins, cook for 1 min in the microwave*)
- A bowl of salt water
- A child-made drawing that represents Judaism to them (*see below*)
- Unpeeled oranges (*whole or cut into quarters or eighths. Bite-sized pieces are best for ease of eating. Tangerines work as well.*)
- Fruits with pits (*"whole" olives, dates, or cherries, not "pitted", which have the pits removed. Bite-sized fruits are best.*)
- Challah
- Grape juice
- Sweet Tea
- Yahrzeit candle
- Matches or lighter
- Cups
- Plates
- Napkins



Preparation: The Child's Drawing

- You will need a drawing made by a child of something that represents Judaism to them.
- You can ask someone in your community to create this for you.
- You can also use this as a program in itself, done the week before Yom HaShoah.
 - *Option 1:* Have your students make drawings.
 - *Option 2:* Use this to involve younger students. Have the younger students make drawing and tell them you will use them for the older students' program.
 - In either case, pick one that you like for the table. Hang the rest on the walls around the room where the ritual will take place.

Set-up for the ritual:

- Prepare the potato skins and salt water, cut the oranges.
- Set out plates with potato skins, rosemary sprigs, oranges, and fruit with pits around the table so everyone has access to them.
- Put two cups, a plate, a napkin, and a copy of the book at each person's place.
 - Pre-pouring the juice and tea will make for a smoother ceremony
- (*Optional*) You can also put out a third set of cups and pitchers of water for drinking.
- Place the candlesticks, the yahrzeit candle, the challah, and the child's drawing in the center of the table, along with the matches/lighter, the grape juice, and the tea.

Procedure:

- Use *Light from the Darkness* to perform the ritual described in it.
 - Additional ideas to add richness to the ritual can be found in the leader's guide in the back of the book and at www.TeachtheShoah.org.
- (*Optional*) Use the "Consider" questions scattered through the book and the "Discussion Questions" at the back to stimulate discussion during and after the ritual.

Note:

- This also works well as a community program.