

Teacher's Packet:

LGBTQ+ Experiences in the Holocaust Lesson Plan

In *Unspoken*, Noam and Jonah undertake historical research to solve the mystery surrounding the early life of Heinrich, Noam's grandfather. This lesson plan will give your students the chance to use their historian skills to analyze rare, primary source documents and then communicate their findings to each other.

GOALS AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

At the end of this lesson, students will have:

- A greater understanding of why and how the Nazis targeted LGBTQ+ people;
- A greater understanding the impact of the Nazis' policies on LGBTQ individuals;
- A greater understanding of how society treated LGBTQ+ survivors in the postwar period;
- Practiced critical thinking and document analysis skills;
- Practiced communication skills.

DESIGN AND STRUCTURE

This lesson plan has been designed to encourage peer-to-peer learning among students. It is also designed to be flexible, allowing the teacher to make adjustments to fit their specific needs.

Components:

- The lesson plan contains links to two 20-minute lectures, available on YouTube, that provide an introductory overview of (1) the Nazi persecution of LGBTQ+ people; and (2) the reclamation of the pink triangle from concentration camp badge to a symbol of gay rights.
- The lesson plan consists of six “Historical Analysis Packets.” Each packet contains copies of primary source documents as well as discussion questions and instructions for the students.

Structure:

- Historical Analysis Packets 1-3 focus on LGBTQ+ experiences during the Nazi regime, and packets 4-6 focus on LGBTQ+ experiences and commemoration after the era of the Holocaust.
- Each Historical Analysis Packet links to the corresponding historical lecture. It is suggested that students watch the lecture before analyzing the documents in the packets.
- While it is possible for students to complete each packet individually, it is suggested that students work in pairs or small groups to complete a Historical Analysis Packet. This promotes collaboration and collective learning.
- After analyzing the documents in the packet, the small groups then report out to the entire class. This enables students to take ownership of their learning by also teaching others. It also provides the entire class the opportunity to learn about the packets they were not assigned.

Flexibility:

Below, you'll find a suggestion for how the lesson plan could be used in your class. But, depending on how much time you have available, your goals, and your students, you can decide how many Historical Analysis Packets to assign, how long to spend on each component of the lesson plan, and even whether to do it in-person during class, or assign as homework.

You can cover both periods (Nazi era and postwar era) at the same time by having half of the class do packets 1-3 (Nazi era) and the other half do packets 4-6 (postwar era). Or, the entire class can work on packets 1-3, followed by a second class period working together on packets 4-6.

Example Agenda:

Prep Work:

- Beforehand, assign your class into pairs or small groups (the number of groups will depend on how many Historical Analysis Packets you will assign).
- As homework, have the students watch the online lecture that corresponds to their packet.
- The link is in each packet, but if you do not want to share the packets with the students until the day of, here are the links:
 - Packets 1-3 will watch: "[They're Enemies of the State!](#)"
 - Packets 4-6 will watch: "[Pink Triangle Memories](#)"

Class Session

1. Break the students into small groups, distribute the Historical Analysis Packets, and explain the instructions.
2. Have each group read through the documents and talk through the discussion questions.
3. Explain that each group will present their findings to the full class the next time the class meets; answer any questions
4. Each group then prepares for the "Report Out" by completing the last page of the packet.
5. Each group shares their report about the document(s) in their Historical Analysis Packet. The instructions are on the final page of the packet.

Dive Deeper

- After students have reported their findings to their classmates, you can share with them the “Dive Deeper” document, which contains links to learn more about the documents they analyzed.

[ADDITIONAL RESOURCES](#)

You can find more educational resources about the Nazi persecution of LGBTQ+ people at www.UnspokenTheFilm.com/resources. This resource packet includes lectures, podcasts, essays, and more that were created by leading experts and institutions.

If you have additional questions about the content, please reach out to Dr. Jake Newsome, public scholar and historical advisor for *Unspoken*, at dr.jakenewsome@gmail.com.

[DOCUMENT SOURCES](#)

The photo captions and sources for the documents in the Historical Analysis Packets are below. Except where noted, all translations from German to English were done by Dr. Jake Newsome.

Packet #1:

- An official medical certification for patient Gerd (formerly Eva) Katter, signed by sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld, November 23, 1928. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft*
- Identification card for Gerd (formerly Eva) Katter from the Berlin Police Department that allows the bearer to dress in clothing of the opposite sex, December 6, 1928. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft*

Packet #2:

- Studio portrait of Frieda Belinfante with her cello, circa 1920. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Frieda Belinfante*
- Portrait of Frieda Belinfante, dressed in men's clothing to disguise herself from Nazi informers, circa 1943. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Toni Boumans*
- Transcript of Oral History Testimony with Frieda Belinfante. Interviewed by Klaus Mueller, May 31, 1994. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum collection*. (<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn504443>)

Packet #3:

- Anordnung der polizeilichen Vorbeugungshaft. Kriminalpolizeistelle Essen, Sept. 23, 1943, records for Ernst Pack, 10965476_1 and 10965476_2, *Arolsen Archives*.
- Admittance Sheet, Naztweiler. Records for Ernst Pack, 10965475_1 and 10965475_2, *Arolsen Archives*.
- Antrag – Entmannung, Flossenbürg, Feb. 17, 1942, records for Ernst Pack, 10965488_1, *Arolsen Archives*.

Packet #4:

- Bruno Bourchard, letter to the Hauptasusschuss of the Opfer des Faschismus, no date (circa March 1947). *Schwules Museum Archives*.

Packet #5:

- "Stoppt die braune Gefahr – Schwule & Lesben gegen Nazis!" Sticker from a gay rights group used in a campaign against the rise of neo-Nazis in West Germany, ca. 1984. *Centrum Schwule Geschichte, Köln*.
- "End Immigration Abuse of Lesbians and Gays," pinback button. Ca. late 1980s. *Jake Newsome's Collection*.
- "Come Out...Come Out...Wherever You Are," poster, 1986. *Susie Gaynes and Amy Bartell for Syracuse Cultural Workers*.
- "Gay Pride Week, September 6 to 18," poster advertising gay pride events in Sydney, Australia, 1973. *Poster Collection, Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives*.
- Pinback: Pink triangle with blue transgender symbol. Designed by Nancy Nangeroni, ca. 1990. *Digital Transgender Archive*.
- Pinback: Pink triangle with the word GAY. Designed by David Thorstad for the Gay Activists Alliance, August 1974. *David Thorstad's Collection*.
- "Schwule sind Überall!" poster, circa 1979. *Schwules Museum Archive*
- "Never Again – Fight Back!" poster designed by Too Much Graphics, San Francisco, 1978. *GLBT Historical Society*.
- "Wir sind schwul und steh'n dazu" poster by Homosexuelle Aktion Westberlin, ca. 1975. *Goethe Institute*.
- Queer Nation Berlin poster, 1992. *Goethe Institute*.

Packet #6:

- Gedenktafel "Rosa Winkel", KZ Dachau. *Wikimedia user Dedd*.
- Neuengamme Pink Triangle. *Wikimedia user Fabius*.
- Gedenktafel Rosa Winkel Nollendorplatz. *Manfred Brückels*.
- Frankfurter Engel, *Reinhard Dietrich*.
- Denkmal duer verfolgte Homosexuelle Berlin, *Wikimedia user Times*.
- Videosequenz des Denkmals, *Wikimedia user Times*.
- Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. *Getty Images*.
- Gedenkkugel für lesbische NS-Opfer im Ravensbrück. *Agnes Witte*.
- Niederlegung der Gedenkkugel im April 2015, *Bernadette Dewald*.