



Materiali per il Clil

Vengono presentati alcuni testi, corredati di domande per la comprensione, finalizzati all'insegnamento in lingua inglese delle discipline storia e diritto. Segue l'indicazione di ulteriori materiali reperibili nel web e utilizzabili anche con la Lim.

1. La Giornata internazionale di commemorazione delle vittime dell'Olocausto celebrata dalle Nazioni Unite ha avuto come tema nel 2011 "Le donne e l'Olocausto". Si presentano due testi: il primo è parte del discorso pronunciato dal segretario generale dell'Onu Ban Ki-moon durante la cerimonia inaugurale; il secondo è un estratto dell'intervento del professor Lenore J. Weitzman.

International Day of commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust
Memorial Ceremony General Assembly Hall
10 February 2011
Statements

- **Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, 27 January 2011**

This year, we pay special tribute to the women who suffered in the Holocaust. Mothers and daughters, grandmothers, sisters and aunts, they saw their lives irrevocably changed, their families separated and their traditions shattered. Yet, despite appalling acts of discrimination, deprivation and cruelty, they consistently found ways to fight back against their persecutors.

They joined the resistance, rescued those in peril, smuggled food into ghettos and made wrenching sacrifices to keep their children alive. Their courage continues to inspire. On this Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us honour these women and their legacy. Let us pledge to create a world where such atrocities can never be repeated.

(www.un.org)

Answer the following questions.

1. Whom was the 2011 Holocaust Remembrance Day dedicated to?
2. What happened to Jewish women during the persecution?
3. How did women fight against their persecutors?
4. What does the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hope for the future generations?

- **Professor Lenore J. Weitzman Keynote talk on "Women in the Holocaust"**

Excellencies, survivors, honored guests,

Why, you may ask, should we talk about WOMEN when we know that the Nazis murdered 6 million Jews without regard to whether they were men, women, or children?

One answer is that concentrating on a particular group helps us break down that daunting number of six million and helps us think about individuals. [...]

Thus a focus on women provides us with a more detailed, more nuanced, and more complete understanding of what happened to Jews during the Holocaust. [...]

In this talk I will explore three spheres of gender differences: [one is] how German policy treated men and women differently. [...]

One painful example was the policy that prohibited pregnancy and the birth of Jewish children in Lithuania (in the summer of 1942). Jewish doctors in the ghettos were required to report every pregnancy and to perform an abortion to terminate it. The penalty for non-compliance was death for the woman and for the doctor. (The order of July 24, 1942 in the Kovno ghetto stated that “Pregnancies have to be terminated. Pregnant women will be shot”).

I want to discuss the response of some young women in the Kovno ghetto who decided to defy this order and to remain pregnant, because I believe that it is important, when we talk about the Holocaust, that we do not just talk about what the Germans did and what they ordered as if it was a *fait accompli*, but that we also consider, at each point, how the Jews responded to these orders and how they tried to cope and resist.

The young women in the Kovno ghetto who decided to remain pregnant – and refused to obey the German order that required abortions – were engaged in a conscious act of resistance because they did not want to allow the Germans to deprive them of the experience of giving birth, and the experience of motherhood.

These young women were fortunate that a Jewish doctor in the Kovno ghetto, Dr. Abraham Peretz, agreed to help them – at the risk of his own life – and to shelter them through their pregnancies (even though they knew that they might be caught and killed).

Pregnancy was also a death-sentence for women in the concentration camps where all pregnant women – and women with children – were selected for immediate murder.

As we know, there was a selection process on the arrival ramp of the Auschwitz concentration camp to determine who would be sent to forced labor, and who would be sent to the gas chambers to die. Those Jews who appeared strong enough for work were sent to one side, while those who looked too young, or too old, or too weak to work, were sent to the other side – which lead directly to death in the gas chambers.

The one exception to this rule was for a woman who was carrying a child in her arms or holding the hands of her children. Even if she looked healthy and fit for work, if she was holding onto a child, she was automatically sent to the gas chambers.

(www.un.org)

Answer the following questions.

1. According to the author, what is the reason to talk specifically about women in the Holocaust?
2. What specific event occurred to women in Kovno ghetto?
3. Which was the response of some young women in the Kovno ghetto against the nazi prohibition of pregnancy?
4. According to the author, why is this aspect so important from an historical point of view?
5. Whom were some young women in the Kovno ghetto helped by? How?
6. Describe the selection process on the arrival ramp of the Auschwitz concentration camp. What was its aim?
7. Why pregnancy or having children were a death-sentence for women in concentration camp?

2. Dopo il processo del 1946 ai grandi criminali di guerra, a Norimberga si svolgono altri procedimenti penali tra cui quello a carico dei medici responsabili di sperimentazioni su deportati e prigionieri di guerra. Questo è un estratto della deposizione di una testimone, Vladislava Karolewska.

- The Nuremberg Trials. The Doctor Trials

Testimony of Vladislava Karolewska

Vladislava Karolewska, a former school teacher and member of the anti-German resistance in Poland, was arrested in 1941 by the Germans and deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp near Berlin. At Ravensbrück, Karolewska was forced to participate in bone regeneration experiments. She testified for the prosecution at the Doctors trial on December 20, 1946.

Question: Now, Witness, were you operated while you were in Ravensbrück concentration camp?

Answer: Yes, I was.

Q: When did that happen?

A: On the 22nd July 1942, 75 prisoners from our transport that came from Lublin were called, summoned to the chief of the camp. We stood before the camp office, and present Kogel, Mandel and one person which I later recognized Dr. Fischer. We were afterwards sent back to the block and we were told to wait for further instructions. On the 25th of July, all the women from the transport of Lublin were summoned by Mendel, who told us that we were not allowed to work outside of the camp. [...]

On the 14th of August, the same year, I was called to the hospital and my name was written on a piece of paper. I did not know why. Besides me, eight other girls were called to the hospital. We were called at a time when usually executions took place and I was going to be executed because before some girls were shot down. In the hospital we were put to bed and the hospital room in which we stayed was locked. We were not told what we were to do in the hospital and when one of my comrades put the question she got no answer but she was answered by an ironical smile. Then a German nurse arrived and gave me an injection in my leg. After this injection I vomited and I was put on a hospital cot and they brought me to the operating room. There, Dr. Schidlauski and Rosenthal gave me the second intravenous injection in my arm. A while before, I noticed Dr. Fischer who went out of the operating room and had operating gloves on. Then I lost my consciousness and when I revived I noticed that I was in a regular hospital room. I recovered my consciousness for a while and I felt severe pain in my leg. Then I lost my consciousness again. I regained my consciousness in the morning and then I noticed that my leg was in a cast from the ankle up to the knee and I felt a very strong pain in this leg and the high temperature.

I noticed also that my leg was swollen from the toes up to the groin. The pain was increasing and the temperature, too, and the next day I noticed that some liquid was flowing from my leg.

The third day I was put on a hospital cart and taken to the dressing room. Then I saw Dr. Fischer again. He had an operating gown and rubber gloves on his hands. A blanket was put over my eyes and I did not know what was done with my leg but I felt great pain and I had the impression that something must have been cut out of my leg. [...]

Two weeks later we were all taken again to the operating room and put on the operating tables. The bandage was removed, and that was the first time I saw my leg. The incision went so deep that I could see the bone. [...]

(University of Missouri-Kansas City, School of Law, <http://law2.umkc.edu>)

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Vladislava Karolewska?
2. Why did she testify at the Nuremberg trial against nazi doctors?
3. How did she feel after having been operated?
4. What kind of surgical operation was done on her?
5. What doctors' names did she remember?

Materiali per svolgere lezioni guidate in lingua inglese sono reperibili nei seguenti siti:

- <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org>

L'importante United States Holocaust Memorial Museum presenta una mostra online con attività didattiche e videolezioni dal titolo emblematico *We were neighbors: collaboration & complicity in Holocaust*.

- <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Il sito della Bbc contiene una presentazione di Auschwitz attraverso una serie di fotografie commentate.

- <http://en.unesco.org>

Il sito dell'Unesco presenta materiali in inglese sull'Olocausto e altri genocidi alla voce: Unesco → Education → Human Rights Education.

- www.un.org

L'Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite ha una sezione dedicata alla commemorazione del genocidio degli ebrei, dal titolo *The Holocaust and United Nations – Educational Materials*. Presenta, inoltre, una serie di unità didattiche sui temi dei diritti umani, della discriminazione e delle conseguenti intolleranze.

- www.yadvashem.org

Il sito ufficiale dell'istituto Yad Vashem è ricco di materiali, testimonianze e immagini. Alla voce online Exhibition, ci si collega a interessanti mostre.

- <http://law2.umkc.edu>

Il sito University of Missouri-Kansas City – School of Law presenta una ricca documentazione relativa ai processi di Norimberga del 1945-49.