



A Gypsy in Auschwitz

Lesson 6: Survival & Resilience

Lesson Plan for Grade 9-12, World History or U.S. History

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Students will explore a memoir for choices made and chances given in order to analyze the outcome of those decisions.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

1. 9-12.WH.28. Synthesize historical information to create new understandings.
2. 9-12.WH.29. Use a variety of source materials to compare and contrast treatments of the same topic
3. 9-12.WH.30. Examine historical events from the perspectives of diverse groups, including Indigenous peoples, national, regional, racial, ethnic, class, and gender, sexual orientation, and differently abled

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be able to identify and analyze examples of resilience in a Holocaust memoir and explain how individuals responded to challenges and injustice.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *A Gypsy in Auschwitz*
2. Resilience Chart

3. Reflection Questions
4. Exit ticket (optional)

VERIFICATION

Steps to check for student understanding

1. Discussion
2. Resilience tracker
3. Exit ticket

ACTIVITY

Describe activity that will reinforce the lesson

Prior to this lesson- students should finish reading the book.

Ask students what they think resilience is. Create a word bank (or whatever works for you) on the board. Then, come up with a class definition and discuss types of resilience with students. I have included my list below.

What is Resilience?

Resilience means finding ways to keep going during difficult times. It does not mean that life is easy or fair. It means showing strength, courage, hope, or determination when facing challenges.

Physical Resilience

Finding ways to survive physically.

Examples:

- Enduring hunger
- Recovering from illness
- Completing difficult work

Emotional Resilience

Managing emotions during difficult situations.

Examples:

- Staying hopeful
- Overcoming fear
- Refusing to give up

Social Resilience

Relying on or helping others.

Examples:

- Friendship
- Family support
- Sharing resources

Moral Resilience

Doing what is right even when it is difficult.

Examples:

- Standing up for others
- Showing kindness
- Maintaining integrity

Cultural Resilience

Holding on to identity, traditions, or beliefs.

Examples:

- Preserving family traditions
- Maintaining cultural pride
- Refusing to let others define who you are

Have students use the following tracker to keep track of moments of resilience. They should be prepared to discuss as a group. (Please note: AI-assisted tools were utilized to support tracker formatting, organization, and aesthetics- not content.)

As a class, discuss moments of resilience that students found. You may then have them complete the reflection questions in addition to the tracker.

If you feel that you need it, an exit ticket is also available for this lesson.

Resilience Tracker: *A Gypsy in Auschwitz*

Name: _____

Date: _____

As you read *A Gypsy in Auschwitz*, look for examples of how Otto Rosenberg and others respond to hardships.

Chapter/ Page	Challenge or Problem	What Did the Person Do?	Type of Resilience	What Does This Show Us?
			☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Social ☐ Moral ☐ Cultural	
			☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Social ☐ Moral ☐ Cultural	
			☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Social ☐ Moral ☐ Cultural	
			☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Social ☐ Moral ☐ Cultural	
			☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Social ☐ Moral ☐ Cultural	

Reflection Questions

1. What was the strongest example of resilience you found in the final 2 chapters of the book?
2. Which type of resilience appeared most often? Why do you think that is?
3. How did other people help or hurt Otto's ability to survive?
4. What lesson about resilience can we learn from this memoir?

Exit Ticket

Choose one quote, event, or action from today's reading that demonstrates resilience.

Evidence:

Why is this an example of resilience?