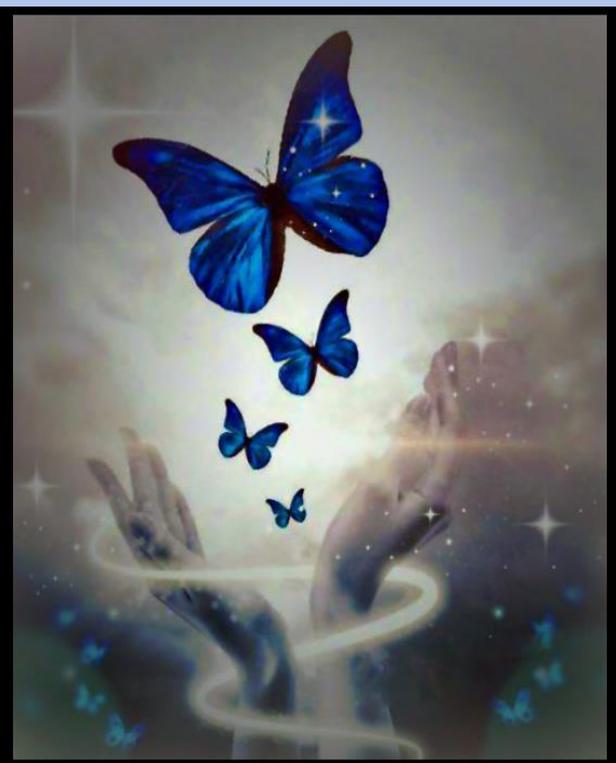


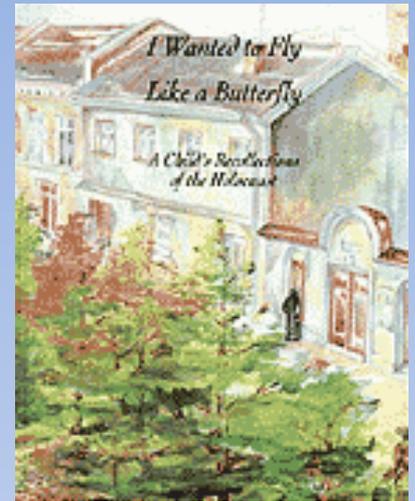
I Wanted To Fly Like a Butterfly



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A book by Naomi Morgenstern
containing the child's memories of
the Holocaust

Why this book?



I have chosen to present this book to my elementary-school students because it describes a complex topic in an educational and to children understandable way.

A child, Hannah Herskowitz, is telling her story of what her life was like before the War, how she managed to survive the Holocaust, find her identity again and continue with her life in Israel.

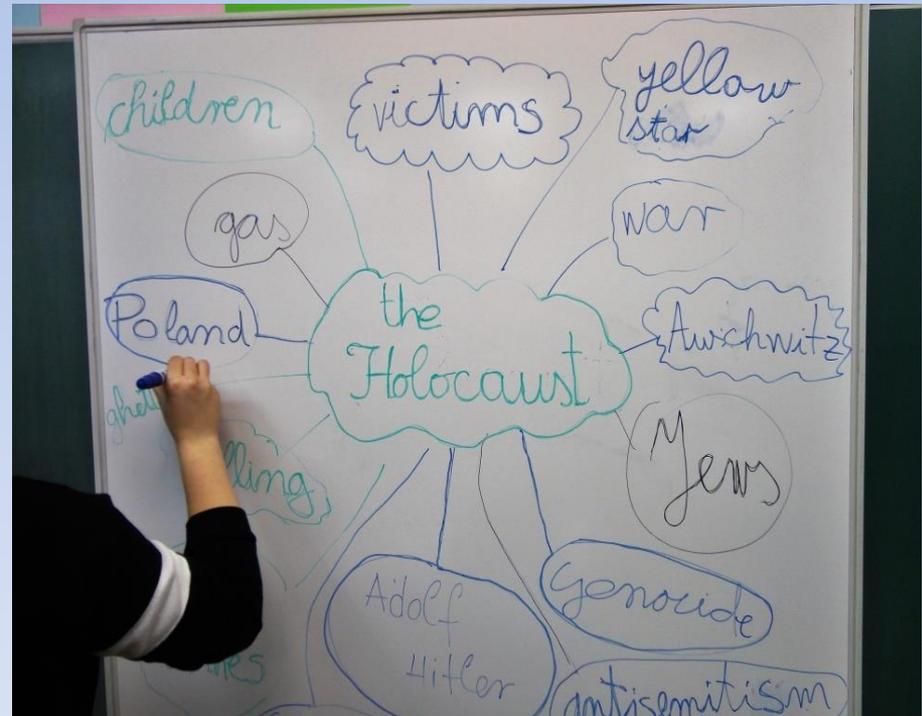
BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE LESSON

- Unit/Topic: Children in the Holocaust – *I Wanted to Fly Like a Butterfly*
- Teacher: Tomislava Delić
- Class: 8.c (17 students)
- Working language: English
- Objectives: To make students aware of the atrocities that happened to Jewish people (focusing on children) in the Holocaust and to present them this complex topic from another perspective, through the eyes of a child – witness
- Students will engage in: independent activities, pairing, cooperative learning, visuals, presentation of their work
- Correlation with other subjects: History

INTRODUCTORY PART

Brainstorming

- The teacher writes the word *Holocaust* on the whiteboard
- Students come to the board and write down what they associate with the word



MAIN PART

Guessing the main character of the story



Introducing the person, a child, who is going to retell us her story



- The teacher puts the title of the book on the board, then the photo of Hannah Herskowitz as a child
- The teacher reads a few basic information about Hannah (under the photo)
- Her story is one among many, but still individual and unique

“What is the symbolic meaning of the title *I Wanted To Fly Like a Butterfly?*” –
the teacher asks

- Some students’ answers:

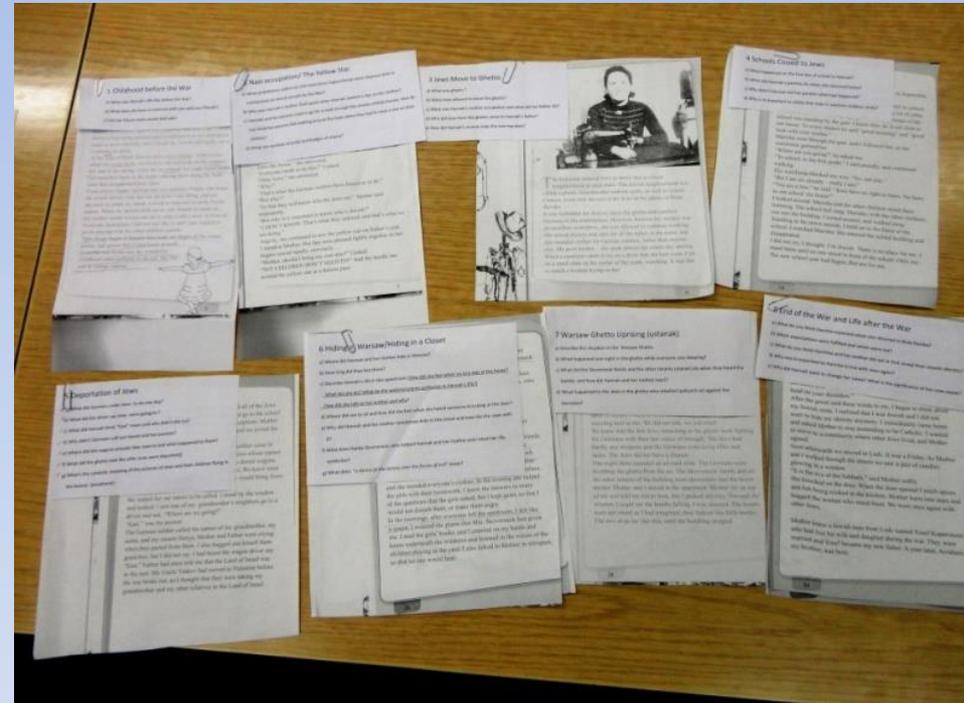
“She wanted to be free.”

“She wanted her life to be colourful
just like a butterfly is.”

“She wanted to experience new
things and be happy in life.”

Chapters of the book ...

- The teacher prepares eight chapters of the book and a set of questions for each chapter:
- *Childhood before the War*
- *Nazi occupation/ The Yellow Star*
- *Jews Move to Ghetto*
- *Schools Closed to Jews*
- *Deportation of Jews*
- *Hiding in Warsaw/Hiding in a Closet*
- *Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*
- *End of the War and Life after the War*



... and questions to think about

1 Childhood before the War

- What was Hannah's life like before the War?
- What does she have in common with you and your friends?
- Did her future seem secure and safe?

4 Schools Closed to Jews

- What happened on the first day of school to Hannah?
- What did Hannah's parents do when she returned home?
- Why didn't Hannah tell her parents what had happened?
- Why is it important to adults that even in wartime children study?

2 Nazi occupation/ The Yellow Star

- What prohibitions (zabrane) and restrictions (ograničenja) were imposed (bila su nametnuta) on Jewish people by the Nazi?
- Why was Hannah's mother Zisel upset when Hannah wanted a star on her clothes?
- Hannah and her parents used to go for a walk through the streets of Biala Ravska. How do you think her parents felt walking around the town when they had to wear a star on their clothes?
- What are symbols of pride and badges of shame?

5 Deportation of Jews

- What did Germans order Jews to do one day?
- What did the driver say Jews were going to?
- What did Hannah think "East" mean and why didn't she cry?
- Why didn't Germans call out Hannah and her parents?
- Where did the wagons actually take Jews to and what happened to them?
- What did the ghetto look like after Jews were deported?
- What's the symbolic meaning of the pictures of Jews and their children flying in the breeze (povjetarac)?

7 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (ustanak)

- Describe the situation in the Warsaw Ghetto
- What happened one night in the ghetto while everyone was sleeping?
- What did the Skovroneck family and the other tenants (stanari) do when they heard the bombs and how did Hannah and her mother react?
- What happened to the Jews in the ghetto who rebelled (pobunili se) against the Germans?

3 Jews Move to Ghetto

- What was ghetto?
- Were Jews allowed to leave the ghetto?
- What was Hannah's mother occupation and what did her father do?
- Why did Jews from the ghetto come to Hannah's father?
- How did Hannah's mother help the starving Jews?

6 Hiding in Warsaw/Hiding in a Closet

- Where did Hannah and her mother hide in Warsaw?
- How long did they live there?
- Describe Hannah's life in the apartment (How did she feel when no one was at the home? What did she do? What do the watered plants symbolize in Hannah's life?)
How did she talk to her mother and why?
- Where did she sit and how did she feel when she heard someone knocking at the door?
- Why did Hannah and her mother sometimes hide in the closet and how did she cope with it?
- What does Hanka Skovroneck, who helped Hannah and her mother and risked her life, symbolize?
- What does "a dance of the victory over the forces of evil" mean?

8 End of the War and Life after the War

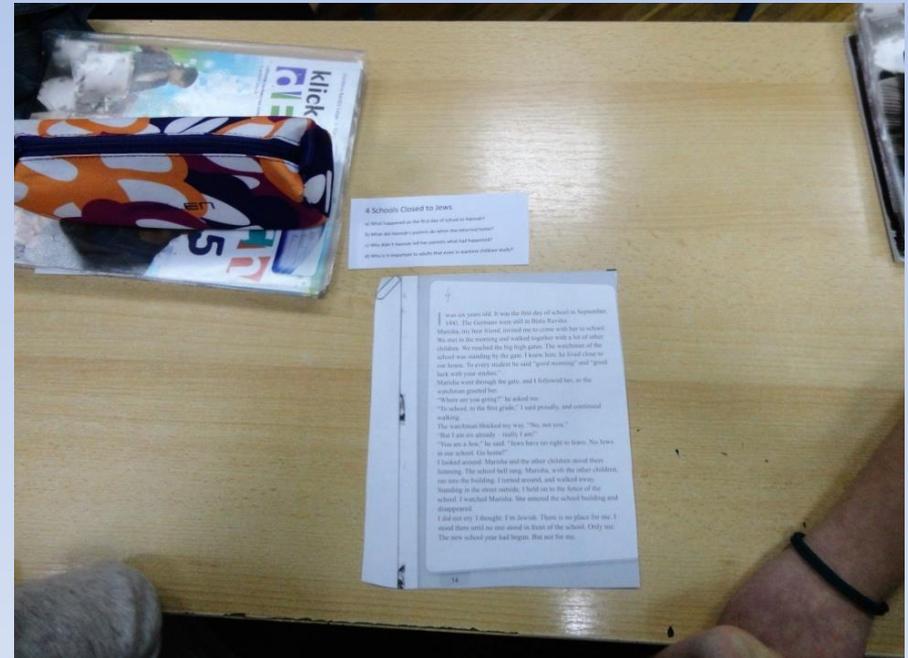
- What do you think Hannah expected when she returned to Biala Ravska?
- Which expectations were fulfilled and which were not?
- What do you think Hannah and her mother did not at first reveal their Jewish identity?
- Why was it important to Hannah to live with Jews again?
- Why did Hannah want to change her name? What is the significance of her new name?

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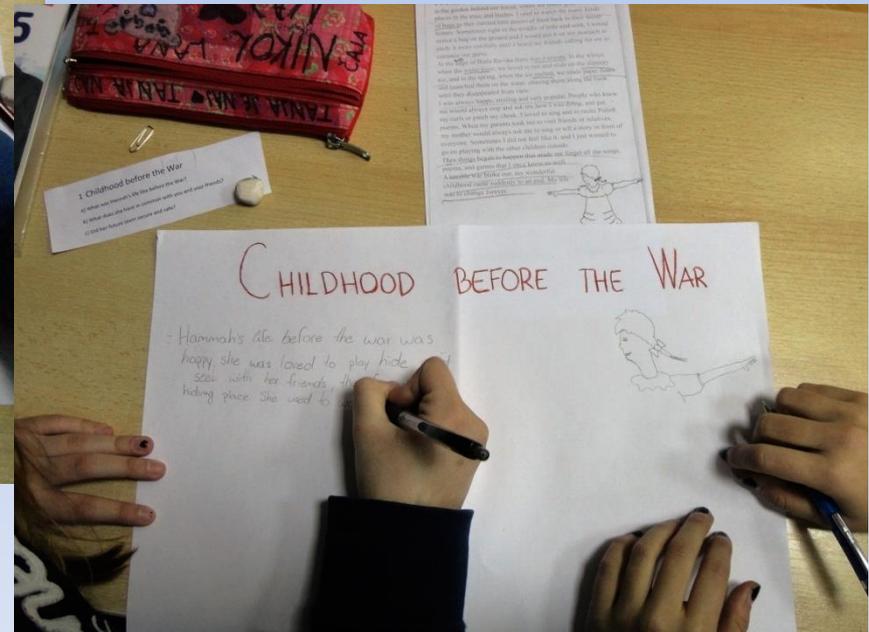
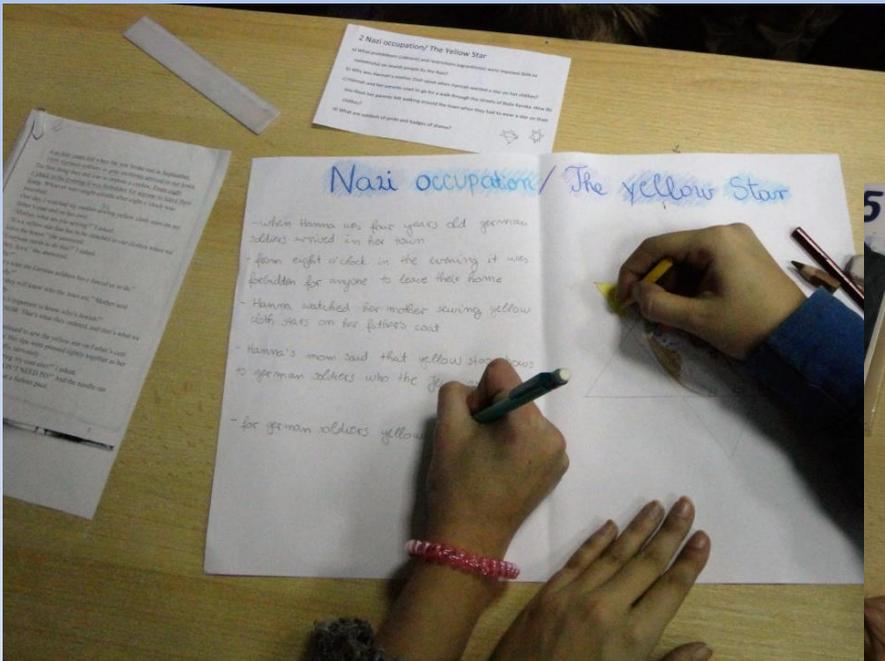
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Students are divided into pairs, each pair one chapter

Reading the text and discussing questions



....organizing the ideas that they are going to present to the class

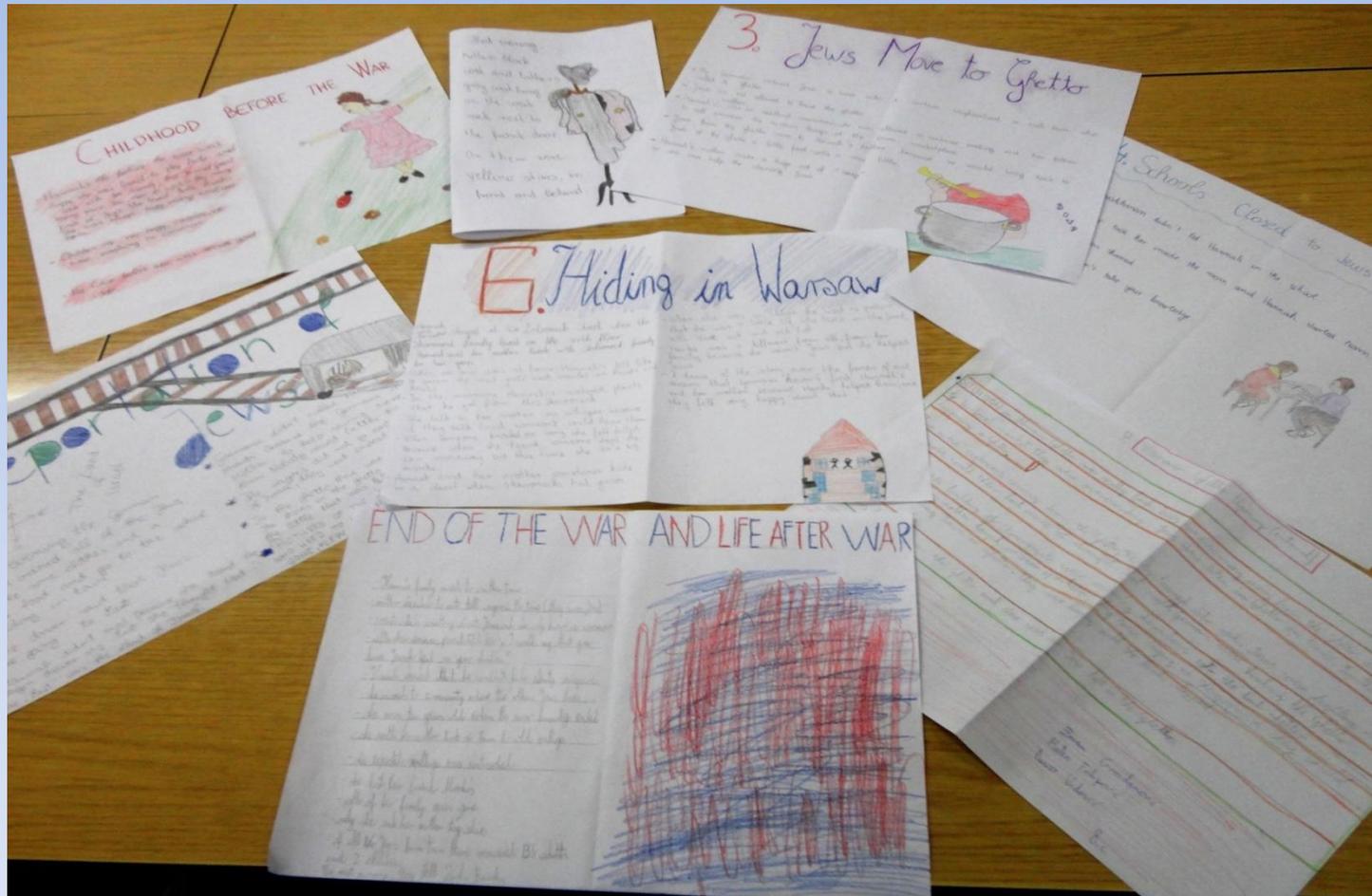


Each pair presents their chapter

After the presentation, discussion about each chapter



Chapter by chapter – the whole story



Students' messages

I have learned that Jews lived exactly like a prisoner if children couldn't go to school. They were have to hide from Nazi. They lived in ghetto. And if they runaway from Nazi they were very happy.

I have learned that after the war there is hope.

I have learnt: Jews mustn't go to school. Jews lived in ghetto. They wore striped clothes.

I have learnt about her life before and after the war.

I have learned that Hanna had to in her life hiding of the Nazi. I have learned that Jews lived in Ghetto.

I have learnt that Jews hate and Jews not allowed to go to school.

I have learnt that in the war there are good people who want to help.

Resources

- Morgenstern, N. (2011), *I Wanted to Fly Like a Butterfly*, Yad Vashem
- <http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/albums/honig.asp>
- http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/education/books/hana_suitcase.asp
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NlxqHJrL68>