

## Teacher's Resource Guide for I Am A Star

Multicultural Thematic Unit For I Am A Star Written by Inge Auerbacher Unit Developed  
by Rex Venier - Madison Middle School - 1998

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### Summary...

The book begins with valuable information about the pre-holocaust persecution of the Jewish people throughout history. This is great background information for the reader. It is this information that clarifies areas of curiosity the reader may have about Jewish history. The story is about a Jewish girl, Inge, who is a normal happy schoolgirl in Germany. Inge is living with her family until W.W.II. There are several ironies to the story; one being the title itself compared to what students today might think if they were to consider themselves a star. Another irony is that Inge's father once served as German soldier, fight for Germany during W.W.I. Inge is taken to a concentration camp with her family. Inge's story is about her life in the camp over the next three years trying to survive. This is taken personally, as it is told by Inge, with her thoughts, ideas and feelings as a child. This is a very well written book with drawings and actual photographs of Inge's family and their life in the concentration camps.

### Reading Level ...

Appropriate for students in grades 7th and 8th

### Themes...

A child's experience of the holocaust, as told by the survivor, Inge Auerbacher.

### Before Reading Questions...

What would you miss most if you and your family were forced from your home? Be sure to include things other than TV, Nintendo, stereos, etc. Some of the things should be personal. Choose # 2 or #3 Remember a time when you have done or said something that was cruel or unkind to someone just because they seemed different than you. Write a description of that event and then write that person's reaction to your cruel comments or actions. What was that person thinking about you? Or... Have you ever had someone say or do anything that was unkind to you? What did it feel like to be treated this way? Be sure to write a description of what happened? How would life be different now if you and your family were forced to live somewhere else? What could the people of the world do to make sure that nothing like the holocaust could ever happen again? Do you think that anything like the Holocaust has ever happened since W.W.II? Explain your answer.

### Purpose...

### Vocabulary...

### After Reading Questions...

### **Language Arts ...**

Read "Letter from a concentration Camp" by Yoshiko Uchida from the Big Book for Peace. Have students write a one-page letter to Inge. Be sure to use the correct letter format, heading, body, and closing. You may also choose to write a letter to a prison guard. Write a story about a time when you were a "star" (school play, student of the month, V.I.P., honor roll) and explain how different being a star like this is from being a star like Inge. Generate a list of 25 items that you could not live without. Only five may be actual physical things such as a bike, Super Nintendo, T.V. etc. After you have included an item in your list, explain why you chose that item. Choose one item from your list and compose an "ode" to that item. See "Ode to My Barn."

### **Social Studies ...**

Find the location of each concentration camp on a world map or an Atlas. Look up five facts about each location from your social studies book or from library resources.

### **Math...**

How many is six million? Collect pennies, paper clips, or Popsicle sticks to represent each person who was killed in the Holocaust. Can we do it?

### **Art...**

Create a biographical model of a Jewish prisoner during his/her incarceration in concentration camp. Or...Draw a detailed picture of your view as a prisoner from your window at the prison camp.

### **Science...**

Research how long the human body can survive without eating. Without drinking? Without sleep? You may use your science book, health book or go to the library.

### **Background Information ...**

#### **About the Author...**

Inge Auerbacher was born in Germany in 1935. Inge was taken prisoner by the Nazis during World War II in 1942. She was placed in Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia and remained there with family until 1945. She immigrated to the United States in 1946 and has lived in New York City ever since. She graduated from college and now she is a chemist for Mount Sinai Services at City Hospital. Inge has traveled all over the world spreading the word about the holocaust to everyone. She has written over fifty poems about the holocaust, some of which have been set to music. She appeared in a documentary "Childhood Memories of the Holocaust" produced in 1985. She was also the subject of the documentary films "Inge and the Yellow Star" and "All Jews Out".

#### **Suggested Readings ...**

Chaikin, M. (1987). A nightmare in history. New York: Clarion. Frank, Anne (1947). Diary of Anne Frank, New York: Pocket Books. Lowry, L. (1989). Number the stars. New York: Dell-Yearling. Richter, H. (1970). Fredrich. New York: Puffin Books. Richter, D. (1970). The devil in

Vienna. New York: Puffin Books. Reiss, J. (1990). The Upstairs room. New York: Scholastic. Writing Magazine, Vol. 20, No. 7, April/May 1998. Writers approach the Holocaust" includes U. S. Holocaust Museum, also Elie Wiesel's Night. Read Magazine, Vol. 47, No. 14, March 20, 1998.. "Memories for the Future." Memories from holocaust survivors. Includes poems written about the holocaust.