

Framework for Educational Guide- *Gisela's Legacy*

PRE-FILM DISCUSSION (IN CLASSROOM)

1. This documentary presents the first-person narrative of a Holocaust survivor named Gisela Adamski who was born in Germany, and currently lives in Connecticut. What other accounts have you read or seen about the Holocaust? What books, movies or narratives are you familiar with already?
2. In this film, you will get to know a person who survived horrific situations targeted Jewish and other marginalized people. What does the phrase *survivor* mean to you? Can you think of someone in your life that you consider to be an example of a *survivor*?
3. The Holocaust was a genocide that occurred in Europe in the middle of the 20th century. Do you think genocide still occurs? Where? What knowledge do you have about genocides around the world? Write down 5-10 associations (people, places, phrases, dates). Share out with the group and record any phrases that are new to you.
4. Does anyone in the class have Jewish heritage? Encourage students to share family connections.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT WHILE WATCHING FILM AT REAL ART WAYS

1. As you view this film, pay attention to the way Gisela speaks, the words she uses, her tone of voice, how she tells her story. Is she upset? Angry? If this were *YOUR* story, how would you tell it?
2. As you watch this film, you will learn about various stages of Gisela's life. What do you consider the most difficult point in Gisela's story? And the most positive/uplifting point?
3. Gisela recalls with many specific details some of the horrific experiences she had in the concentration camps. Did anything in particular surprise you?

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR AFTER THE FILM SCREENING (IN CLASSROOM)

1. When asked by the interviewer whether she had forgiven the Germans for the atrocities committed at the concentration camps, Gisela responded, "**It's not up to me.**" What is your interpretation of her statement? Why is it difficult to say a simple "yes" or "no"?
2. Have you ever worked to forgive someone, or a group of people? Did you find it difficult, or easy?
3. Gisela's daughter Eliane states, "**You don't lose your history, but you make room for the future.**" Can you think of an example in your own life where remembering the past helped you to better understand or prepare for the future?
4. Gisela states that we must "**listen to our conscience.**" Are there situations occurring today that make your conscious speak? Have you ever taken action against something that you thought was unjust or unfair in society?
5. As the narrator states, there have been numerous genocides around the world since the time of WWII. Living in the United States, what is our responsibility toward atrocities happening to other individuals around the world, near and far?

VOCAB IDEAS

Jewish
Genocide
Holocaust
Nazi

Kristallnacht
Ghetto
Concentration camp
Anti-Semitism

Propaganda
Master Race/Aryan Race
Dehumanization
Mein Kampf