



The Butterfly Project Lesson Plan for Grades 5-8

Goal: The students will learn the connection between the symbol of the butterfly and the Holocaust.

Objectives: The students will be able to:

1. analyze some children's poetry and drawings from Terezin (Theresienstadt concentration camp).
2. Understand what life was like for the Jews living in concentration camps during the Holocaust.

Materials:

- [Butterfly painting kit](#)
- [Butterfly Project PowerPoint](#) for grades 5-8
- Pictures of children's drawing from Terezin (included in the PowerPoint presentation)
- Poem – "The Butterfly" (included in the lesson plan and in the PowerPoint presentation)

Activities:

1. Show PowerPoint presentation (if possible), discuss life in concentration camps using the PowerPoint and give the students general knowledge about this period of time.
2. Read the poem, "The Butterfly"
3. Discuss the poem and ask the students the following questions:
 - a. Who do you think wrote this poem?
 - b. What experience do you think generated this poem?
 - c. To what is the poem referring?
 - d. How does this poem make you feel?
 - e. Why do you think the butterfly became a symbol in children's poetry and drawing during this time? (for the teacher – it's a symbol of hope, beauty, and freedom).

Optional:

4. Show children's drawings and discuss what the students see in the pictures. Discuss the following questions:
 - a. Who do you think drew the pictures?
 - b. How did this person feel?
 - c. Are there special objects drawn in the pictures? What are they and why do you think they are there?

Art project: Paint a ceramic butterfly (each butterfly represents a child who perished in the Holocaust)

**Recommended Book:**

- I Never Saw Another Butterfly edited by Hana Volavkova (a collection of works of art and poetry by children who lived in the Terezin concentration camp).
- Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust by Eve Bunting

Educational Resources:

- <http://www.nonduality.com/terezin.htm>
- http://richards-creations.net/Pages/8/Irena-s_Children.html
- <http://www.yadvashem.org>
- <http://www.museumoftolerance.com/site/c.juLVJ8MRKtH/b.1580483/k.BE32/Home.htm>
- <http://www.ushmm.org/>
- Video: [SDJA Zikaron V'Tikvah/Butterfly Project story](#)
- Documentary [Paper Clips](#) (for 6-12th grade)



“The Butterfly”

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun’s tears would sing
against a white stone. . . .

Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly ‘way up high.
It went away I’m sure because it wished to
kiss the world good-bye.

For seven weeks I’ve lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto.
But I have found what I love here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut branches in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.
That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don’t live in here,
in the ghetto.

~ Pavel Friedman 4.6.1942