

# **WSRA: Utilizing *The Assignment* for Holocaust Education**

By

[Liza Wiemer](#), author of [\*The Assignment\*](#)

## **Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC):**

<https://holocaustcentermilwaukee.org>

## **FOR A FREE SET OF THE ASSIGNMENT:**

<https://holocaustcentermilwaukee.org/the-assignment-by-liza-wiemer/>

## **Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors:**

Rudine Sims Bishop essay on Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors for both sessions:

<https://scenicregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Mirrors-Windows-and-Sliding-Glass-Doors.pdf>

## **Resources on antisemitism:**

### **Compiled by Liza Wiemer, author of *The Assignment***

With input from Dr. Luke Berryman, founder of The Ninth Candle

Sarah Darer Littman, author of *Some Kind of Hate*

Chana Stiefel, author of *Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eilach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs*

Nancy Churnin, author of *Dear Mr. Dickens*

## **Helpful definitions and information for allyship:**

ADL's Glossary of Terms:

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-07/education-glossary-terms.pdf>

**Be aware of bias:**

**Bias** can be both **explicit** (aware, voluntary and intentional) and **implicit** (unaware, involuntary and unintentional).

**Manifestations of bias and discrimination** can be both **personal** (an individual act of bias, meanness or exclusion) or **systemic** (policies and practices supported and sanctioned by power and authority and that benefit some and disadvantages others).

**Resources on antisemitism:**

Note: We often encounter people unfamiliar with antisemitism, antisemitic tropes/stereotypes. We are providing the following information to help educate:

What is antisemitism? From the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA):  
<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

#TranslateHate: Stopping Antisemitism Starts With Understanding It!

[https://global.ajc.org/files/ajc/upload/AJC\\_Glossary.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1T-HDAk5DSsZ5QxiJhF4s0Yx1AU7hnPCHtsyuBCbWu2C37d-muJP24tNM](https://global.ajc.org/files/ajc/upload/AJC_Glossary.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1T-HDAk5DSsZ5QxiJhF4s0Yx1AU7hnPCHtsyuBCbWu2C37d-muJP24tNM)

Hate symbols: <https://www.adl.org/resources/hate-symbols/search>

Antisemitic attitudes found in America: Survey done by the ADL: Eye-opening survey conducted by the ADL. 85% of Americans surveyed believe at least one anti-Jewish trope, as opposed to 61 percent found in 2019:

<https://www.adl.org/resources/report/antisemitic-attitudes-america-topline-findings>

*The following is a list of antisemitic stereotypes and tropes/actions/behaviors that are associated with antisemitism. Some are blatant, direct manifestations of antisemitism, and some may be more*

*subtle and less familiar. Each one is an opportunity to explore and unpack how Jews are seen, portrayed, and treated in society.*

### **Stereotypes or antisemitic tropes/actions:**

- Holocaust denial or downplaying the Holocaust
- Calling Holocaust victims “white refugees.”
- Comparing vaccinations to the Holocaust
- Comparing wearing masks to Jews forced to put the Star of David on clothing during the Holocaust
- Using the Holocaust as a reference or comparison when it’s not the Holocaust
- 110/109 - used by antisemites to represent the number of countries Jews have allegedly been kicked out of
- Using Nazi as a descriptor of someone critical or overbearing, such as a grammar Nazi.
- Calling someone a Nazi when they’re not a Nazi.
- The lie that Hilter was a Jew
- Judaism is a cult
- Jewish people are clannish
- Jewish people stick together and hire other Jewish people over anyone else
- Jewish people are more loyal to Israel than to the United States. Dual loyalty
- Jewish people want to be at the head of everything
- Jewish people don’t share the same values as non-Jewish people
- Jewish people don’t care about anyone but other Jews
- Overbearing parent, especially the mother
- Absent or neglectful parents
- Vulgar with dress, language
- Need to be the smartest, best student, valedictorian
- Education above everything else
- Obsessed with sex, porn - Jewish girls portrayed as “easy”
- Jewish women are frigid
- Jewish men are sexually promiscuous or unfaithful or pedophiles

- Orthodox families are neglectful, messy, don't respect other people's property, absentee parents, force older children to raise younger children
- Control the media
- Control the banks and Wall Street. Too much influence on banking and the stock market.. Jews as bankers
- Control the world - globalists or puppet masters
- Seek world domination
- Shrewd at business and don't give competitors a fair chance
- Use unfair or shady business practices in order to get what they want
- More dishonest in business than other people
- Cold and unfriendly
- Christ killers
- Smart, but conniving, calculating or sublimely clever
- Arrogant, ruthless
- Greedy
- Rich - obsessed with money
- Throwing coins at Jews to show their greedy or to get them to pick them up
- Jews love a "sale"
- Poor, pathetic
- Zionism = Racism
- "From the river to the sea." - calling for the destruction of Israel
- Damned to hell
- The devil
- Jews have tails and horns
- Big noses
- Wide foreheads
- Short
- Dark skin, dark hair
- Disease spreaders
- "You don't look Jewish."
- No regard for non-Jewish people's lives. Only Jewish lives
- Luring children to take their blood - blood libel, where Christians claim that Jews cut the throats of Christian children for ritual purposes or to mix into their matzohs. This is complete rubbish.

- Ply their children and others with alcohol or drugs
- “White” and therefore privileged to deny, diminish or dismiss antisemitism
- Jews are not a marginalized people
- All Jews are White
- “Jew them down.” = Negotiate for a lower price - bargain
- “Don’t be such a Jew.” = stingy
- “I’ve been jewed.” = I’ve been cheated
- Kike = Kike is a highly offensive term used to insult and denigrate people of Jewish faith or ethnicity that is widely considered to be a form of hate speech. (AJC)
- “My best friend is Jewish.” Or “I have Jewish friends.” - statement used to deny antisemitic comments or behavior
- “This is my Jewish friend.” Calling out the friend as Jewish during introductions.
- [Jews aren’t really Jews](#). Blacks are the real Jews.
- I support Israel more than Jews do.

**Why *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* is problematic:**

<https://www.kveller.com/the-boy-in-the-striped-pyjamas-set-holocaust-education-back-by-decades-now-its-getting-a-sequel/>

<https://holocaustlearning.org.uk/latest/the-problem-with-the-boy-in-the-striped-pyjamas/>

<https://teachinghistorymatters.com/2016/11/07/why-i-loathe-the-boy-in-the-striped-pajamas/?fbclid=IwAR1Cg43yE3FKoFF0cCc-7qEheJ17g4L5AloHLGURuf15TByus5AxFnxAjIM>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/27/the-boy-in-the-striped-pyjamas-fuels-dangerous-holocaust-fallacies>

[http://content.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1857440,00.html?fbclid=IwAR0rW2LVIF2iXedi5V5Ni7xk7e4fFUwC5CSdmOqSdfP4Z\\_uAoeAD-K5AjJA](http://content.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1857440,00.html?fbclid=IwAR0rW2LVIF2iXedi5V5Ni7xk7e4fFUwC5CSdmOqSdfP4Z_uAoeAD-K5AjJA)

[http://content.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1857440,00.html?fbclid=IwAR0rW2LVIF2iXedi5V5Ni7xk7e4fFUwC5CSdmOqSdfP4Z\\_uAoeAD-K5AjJA](http://content.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1857440,00.html?fbclid=IwAR0rW2LVIF2iXedi5V5Ni7xk7e4fFUwC5CSdmOqSdfP4Z_uAoeAD-K5AjJA)

## **Useful hashtags:**

#Jewishbookstagram #Jewishbook #Jewishbooks #Jewishkidlit #Jewishbooks  
#Jewishownvoices #Jewsofcolor #Jewishkidsbooks #Jewishauthors  
#Jewishinstagram #nomorehate #neveragainisnow #Holocaust  
#Holocausteducation #Holocaustrememberanceday #Holocaustmemorialday  
#Shoah #antisemitism #stopantisemitism #Jewsofinstagram #Jewishlife  
#Jewishlifestyle #Jewishbookworld #Jewishtiktok #Jewishbooktok  
#Jewishbooksarediverse #Jewishculture #Jewishkids  
#JewishBooksAreMulticulturalBooks #weneeddiversebooks  
#weneeddiverseauthors #wndb #Jewishhistory #Jewishstories  
#Jewishamericanheritagemonth #jahm #Jewishheritagemonth #Jewishheritage

## **General Jewish Resources**

- Hebcad: Jewish calendar: <https://www.hebcad.com/>
- My Jewish Learning: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com>

## **Jewish Children's Literature Resources**

- Evaluating Jewish Representation in Children's Literature:  
<https://jewishlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Evaluating-Jewish-Kidlit-Guide.pdf>
- The Sydney Taylor Shmooze, a mock award blog that reviews every Jewish children's and YA book in a given year: <https://www.sydneytaylorshmooze.com>

## **Booklists and Recommendations**

- The Book of Life: A Podcast About Jewish Kidlit (Mostly):  
<https://jewishbooks.blogspot.com>
- Association of Jewish Libraries Love Your Neighbor series of book lists (Jewish books for ALL readers): <https://jewishlibraries.org/love-your-neighbor>

- Jewish lists from the Jewish Book Council:  
<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/books/reading-lists>
- Association of Jewish Libraries Bibliography Bank:  
<https://jewishlibraries.org/bibliography-bank>
- Holiday Highlights: <https://jewishlibraries.org/holiday-highlights/>

## **Awards**

- The [Sydney Taylor Book Award](https://jewishlibraries.org/sydney_taylor_book_award/): The Sydney Taylor Book Award is presented annually by AJL to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience. [https://jewishlibraries.org/sydney\\_taylor\\_book\\_award/](https://jewishlibraries.org/sydney_taylor_book_award/)
- National Jewish Book Awards recognize authors, and encourage reading, of outstanding books of Jewish interest.  
<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/national-jewish-book-awards>
- Canadian Jewish Literary Awards: <https://www.cjlawards.ca>

## **Follow and support Jewish publishers:**

Apples and Honey Press  
 Artscroll/Mesorah Publications  
 Behrman House  
 Feldheim  
 Gefen Publishing House  
 Green Bean Books  
 Hachai Publishing  
 Intergalactic Afikoman  
 Jewish Lights Publishing  
 Judaica Press  
 Kalanot Books  
 Kar-Ben Publishing  
 Menucha Publisher  
 PJ Publishing

## **Follow Jewish influencers:**

[Book of Life Podcast](#): Heidi Rabinowitz

[Jewish Kidlit Mavens](#) on Facebook

[Susan Kusel](#), Jewish picture book author, synagogue librarian

[Erika Dreifus](#), blogger

[Barbara Krasner: The Whole Megillah](#), blogger

[Barbara Bietz: Jewish Books for Kids & More](#), blogger

### **TikTok and Instagram:**

That Jewish Moment

Heroine Whisperer

The Real Melinda Strauss

Ninth Candle

JewBelong

Jewinthecity

Hey Alma

### **Adult**

Baddiel, David, *Jews Don't Count*, TLS Books, 2021

Freeman, Ben M., *Jewish Pride: Rebuilding a People*, No Pasaran Media, 2021

Horn, Dara, *People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present*, W.W. Norton Company, 2021

Lipstadt, Deborah. *Antisemitism: Here and Now*. Schocken Books, 2019