

Out of the Darkness

This 1 hour docufilm, which is freely available to schools, is an original Holocaust teaching resource for students aged 13-18. Based on the testimony of Holocaust survivor Janine Webber BEM, who was born in Lvov, Poland (now Lviv, in Ukraine), and narrated by Jason Isaacs, this film skilfully weaves survivor testimony and archival footage with dialogue among young people of today. This dynamic fusion of the past with the present applies equally to the film's content and presentation. The tapestry created is accessible, interesting, and relevant to today's learners. In addition to informing students about the Holocaust, this film is likely to stimulate a great deal of discussion in secondary school classrooms.

Its Holocaust focus is consistently accurate with dramatic tension. Janine Webber is an excellent story teller, and her testimony, like all survivors, is unique, thought-provoking and provides students with the opportunity to listen to a personal first-hand account. The language used is suitable for students with a wide range of abilities and key terms are appropriately explained. Narration and visuals provide explicit context to the survivor testimony and encourage viewers to engage with this difficult and complex period in history and its issues.

One limitation of this film is that teachers may struggle to find 1hour to devote to it. This can be addressed by teachers dividing the film into appropriate segments to suit time constraints. Teachers can also use one element of the film, i.e. the archival footage, narration, or survivor testimony, on its own (or in a combination) to support student learning. Teachers therefore should not be put off by the length of this film as its many layers can be used flexibly.

While the film's content of the lessons *about* the Holocaust is comprehensive, its content on the lessons *from* the Holocaust is far less so. Interestingly Raphael Lemkin, the lawyer who coined the term 'genocide', studied law at the University of Lvov, Janine Webber's hometown. The film's references to genocide are relevant and useful, though brief. Present-day antisemitism and antigypsyism and the hateful and racist language on social media platforms are not mentioned.

An excellent resource, that conveys the importance of learning about and understanding the Holocaust today.

Schools can register to receive the film at:

<https://holocaustlearninguk.org/school-college-registration/>

The film trailer is available at:

<https://holocaustlearninguk.org/docufilm/>

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