



2017 HOLOCAUST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENT AUDRÉE-ANNE DUPONT

Audrée-Anne teaches French immersion at Merton School in Côte Saint-Luc, Quebec. Her courses cover various subjects including history, geography, ethics and the Holocaust. In her classes, she encourages students to participate in debates and reflect on the relevance of the lessons of the Holocaust today.

YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION IN REVIEW

Participation in the CSYV Holocaust Scholarship Program gave Audrée-Anne a rare opportunity to discuss best practices in Holocaust education that enabled her to revise and complement her unit about the Holocaust. Many of Audrée-Anne's students are Jewish, which lends added significance to their study of the Holocaust. Audrée-Anne's unit on the Holocaust is specifically designed for 6th grade students (11-12 years old). The unit uses various literary resources to allow students to better understand the Holocaust and the impact it had on the world. Audrée-Anne makes use of Holocaust children's literature to make the subject accessible for young learners, bringing the topics associated with the Shoah to their level, thereby encouraging level-appropriate questioning and discussion.

Throughout the course, students are encouraged to reflect on the following: the causes of war; abuse of power and its consequences; discrimination and its relationship to the Holocaust; the power of symbols such as the yellow Star of David; and the impact of the Shoah on people and the way it produced victims, collaborators, witnesses and perpetrators. Audrée-Anne saw how reading about the Holocaust inspired insightful thoughts in her pupils. Below are two examples.



While discussing *Le petit garçon étoilé* (The Little Boy Star), an allegory of the Holocaust by Rachel Hausfater and Olivier Latyk, one of the pupils shared the following: "I really did like the book, it made me feel deep emotions. When I heard the story, it made me think - what if I were this little boy. It was the first time that this thought occurred to me, what if I also were a little child during the war?"

Following the reading of *Le petit Guili* (Little Guili) by Mario Ramos, a story about a lion who, once crowned, started to abuse his power, one of Audrée-Anne's students had the following response: "the book demonstrated that when we have a lot of power we should be able to control it. I can relate it to the world when people have a lot of power like Hitler who started the war because he thought the Jews were horrible. In the book, Leon started the war because he had a lot of power".



Such feedback from students showcases the capacity of grade 6 pupils to reflect on serious subjects. It is this insight into her students' capacity and ability to empathize which motivates Audrée-Anne to teach the next generation of Canadians about the Holocaust. In order to enrich the students' education concerning the Holocaust, Audrée-Anne plans to incorporate a testimony from a child Holocaust survivor into her teaching curriculum. Audrée-Anne believes this will bring her course to the next level, helping her students to connect with someone closer to their age. She is also considering including a story about the Righteous Among the Nations*, as they serve as a reminder that there was a spark of hope during the darkest hour in world history. Finally, Audrée-Anne is working to make Holocaust education available to the wider community. She was a member of a discussions group initiated by the Montreal Holocaust Museum which worked to develop a traveling exhibition about the Holocaust.

* The title *Righteous Among the Nations* is awarded to non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives and the lives of their families to rescue Jews during the Holocaust.