

Reading Activities for English students (Primary)

Young readers can be introduced to some of the issues raised by Holocaust Memorial Day through the eyes of fictional characters. The days leading up to HMD are a good time to **share** in the reading of a short novel and **discuss** the issues and questions which arise as the story unfolds.

It is important to **tell** students that although the characters they encounter are fictional, the historical events behind the narrative actually took place. HMDT has selected books suitable for primary students and prepared a series of discussion questions and tasks to be used with student reading groups. You will find these in the reading group section of our main website.

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/for-young-people>

You could use any of the books in this section but to help your students consider **Untold Stories** we especially recommend three of them.

In *Once* (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/for-young-people/books-for-young-people-once>) and its sequel *Then* (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/for-young-people/books-for-young-people-then>) by Morris Gleitzman 10 year old Felix, a Jewish child narrates the story of his experiences in hiding and on the run with six year old Zelda. These are fast paced stories, written especially for children. They both have dramatic and shocking endings which remind readers of the millions of **Untold Stories** of Jewish families during the Holocaust and of the dangers faced by people who defied the authorities to hide children from the Nazis. The author dedicates the books to 'all the children whose stories have never been told.'

The Mozart Question (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/for-young-people/books-for-primary-students-the-mozart-question>) by Michael Morpurgo unpacks the **Untold Stories** which lay behind a famous musician's decision to never play anything written by Mozart.