



***HIDDEN* Travel Show - Study Guide**

Synopsis of *HIDDEN*:

Holocaust survivor **Ruth Kapp Hartz** shares her story. Renamed Renée as a child to conceal her Jewish identity, she and her family seek refuge with the Fedou family in a French village. Amid mounting danger, the family separates for safety, sending Renée to a Catholic orphanage where silence is oppressive. Mother Superior risks all to hide Jewish children, who narrowly escape being discovered by the Nazis. Renée and her parents survive the war thanks to the bravery of their rescuers. In the present day, Ruth vows to speak out, and the cast unites in songs emphasizing resilience and hope.

Why We Need to Teach the Holocaust (created by Gratz College, using source material from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum/USHMM, and UNESCO):

It has been 80 years since the end of World War II; 80 years since the liberation of concentration camps and extermination camps; 80 years since the world was shocked at the unfathomable evil and destruction of the Nazi regime.

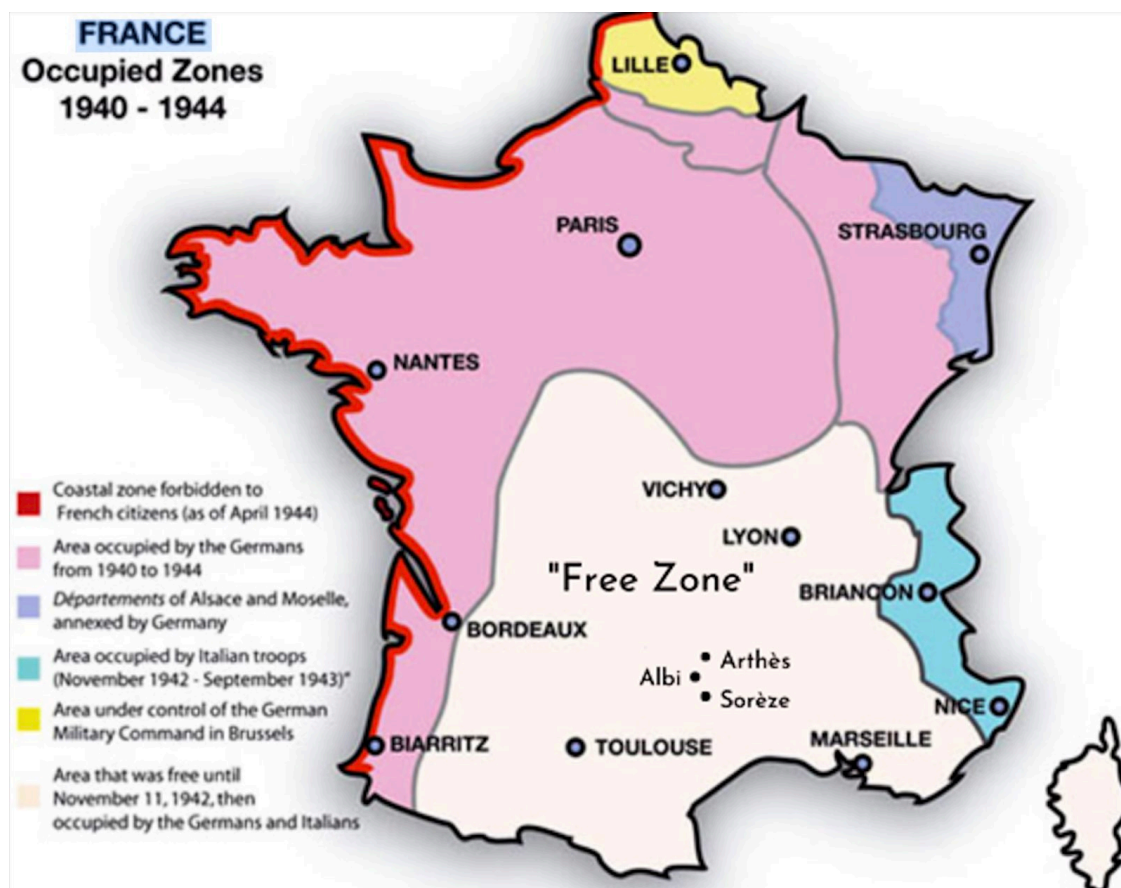
We need to teach the Holocaust because antisemitism, racism, prejudice, and xenophobia continue to be very prevalent today. Soon, we will no longer have any living eyewitnesses to one of the worst events in human history. Who will impart the lessons of the Holocaust if not for teachers? Teaching the Holocaust:

- Helps students understand the most extreme effects of prejudice, racism, stereotyping and dehumanization.
- Demonstrates that once discrimination and racism are acceptable and normalized, no one is immune. Jews, although Hitler's primary target, were not the only victims of the Holocaust. Roma and Sinti people, gay men, the disabled, ethnic Poles, political opponents, and Soviet Prisoners were all persecuted by the Nazis.
- Shows how othering and villainizing a minority as a scapegoat for societal problems makes them an easier target. The Nazis were not the first to use this tactic for political purposes, nor were they the last.
- Illustrates that it is much easier to be a bystander than an upstander and that doing the right thing can come at a cost. Those who spoke out against the Nazis risked everything from social alienation and boycotting early in the Nazi period to imprisonment and death later in the war.
- Reminds us that many who supported Nazi policies were regular citizens who didn't view themselves as extremists.
- Using survivor testimonies enables us to humanize, empathize, and identify with the victims and even see shared characteristics with them.
- Encourages us to work towards the ultimate goal of genocide prevention. Identifying common factors that contributed to the Holocaust and other genocides allows us to consider tactics that might help prevent or mitigate mass violence.
- In a time of rampant antisemitism and increasing prejudice around the world, our students are looking to teachers for leadership, empathy, and moral guidance—an unwavering commitment to truth, critical thinking, and the courage to confront hatred and intolerance head-on.

Timeline of WWII & Kapp family events

France declared war on Germany	1939 September 3	Kapps move to Paris - Ruth is one year old
Germany invades France	1940 May 10	Kapps move to Toulouse
Nazis occupy Paris	June 14	
From London DeGualle calls for Resistance	June 18	
Franco-German armistice; Germans occupy 3/5ths of France	June 22	
Creation of Vichy government in the Free Zone	July 2	
National Assembly dissolves Third Republic, hands power to Pétain	July 10	
1st series of anti-Jewish laws in France	October 3	
Establishment of internment camps for Jewish men	1941 May	Benno Kapp joins French Foreign Legion
2nd series of anti-Jewish laws	June 2	
Beginning of confiscation of Jewish businesses in France	July 2	
Creation of Drancy internment camp	August 20-21	
First trainload of Jews leaves Drancy for Auschwitz	1942 March 27	
Jews over 6 years of age in the Occupied Zone must wear yellow star	May 29	Benno Kapp returns to Toulouse
Vél d'Hiv roundup in Paris of approx. 13,000 Jews for deportation to Auschwitz	July 16-17	
	August 26	The Kapps are tipped off and escape to Arthés
Germans occupy the Southern Zone	November 11	
Jews in Southern Zone must have "juif/juive" on identity cards	December 11	
Creation of the Milice - French Police in league with Nazis	1943 January 31	
Klaus Barbie captures leading Resistants	June 21	

Germans take over Italian-occupied territory in southern France	1943	
	September 8	
	November	Renée is sent to the orphanage at Sorèze Abbey
Klaus Barbie raids Jewish orphanage near Lyon. All 44 children deported and killed in concentration camps	1944	
	April 6	Renée is sent back to Arthès - reunited with parents
Landing of the Allied Forces in Normandy - D-Day	June 6	
Charles de Gaulle returns to France	June 14	
Liberation of Paris	August 25	
	1945	
Death March	January 18	
Russians liberate Auschwitz	January 27	
Germany surrenders - VE Day	May 8	
Japan surrenders - end of WWII	September 2	



Note: By November 11, 1942, all of France was occupied by the Nazis

Pre-show and Post-show Activities

Identity/Names:

As a young girl, Ruth had to go by the name Renée to hide her Jewish identity and seem more French. In Scene 1 of the show, Ruth's mother tries to teach her to use the new name in the song "Your Name is Renée".

Pre-show discussion:

- With a partner, talk about your name: where it came from, what it means, how it is significant to you.
- With the whole class, share something you learned from your partner (with their permission).

Post-show discussion:

- Discuss how it would feel if you had to change your name in order to stay safe:
 - What would be the challenges?
 - How might it affect you?
 - What might be lost in terms of your identity?

Fleeing/Hiding:

Renée and her parents had to flee quickly several times during the War.

Post-show discussion:

- If you had to leave your home suddenly, what would you take and why?

Allies/Rescuers:

Pre-show discussion or writing prompts:

- What does it mean to be an ally?
- Have you ever been an ally to someone, and in what way?
- Has anyone ever been an ally to you, and in what way?

Post-show discussion or writing prompts:

- Why do you think that Monsieur Fedou risked his life (and the life of his family) to save Renée and her parents?
- What do you think you would do if you were faced with a similar situation?
- Do you see anything happening today that might challenge you to decide whether to take the kind of risks that Monsieur Fedou did?

Small Acts of Kindness:

Post-show discussion or writing prompt:

- Listen to the song "Small Acts of Kindness" (<https://twoofakind1.bandcamp.com/track/small-acts-of-kindness> or <https://soundcloud.com/hiddenamusical/small-acts-of-kindness>) that is in the full version of the show (not in the travel show) and tells a story that happened to Renée. Has anybody ever done something small for you that meant a lot? Have you done something small for someone else that might have meant a lot to them?

Memory/Impact:

Post-show writing prompts:

- What song in the show affected you the most and why?
- What scene in the show affected you the most and why?
- How did the music add to your experience of the story?
- What is something new that you learned from this show?

Vocabulary terms (including resources from USHMM and Encyclopedia Britannica):

- **Anti-Jewish Laws:** legislation that generally defined Jews, deprived them of a variety of civil, political, and economic rights, and laid the groundwork for deportation, and ultimately, mass murder during the Holocaust.
- **Charles de Gaulle:** French general who led the Free French Forces against Nazi Germany and chaired the Provisional Government of the French Republic after the war to restore democracy.
- **D-Day:** on June 6th, 1944, American forces landed on the French beach of Normandy. This marked a turning point in the war for the Allied forces.
- **Dictatorship:** form of government in which one person or a small group possesses absolute power without effective constitutional limits.
- **“Free” (Southern) Zone:** territory of Southern France not under Nazi jurisdiction. However, the Vichy Government worked with the Nazis to establish laws discriminating against the rights of Jews.
- **Holocaust:** the mass murder of 6 million Jews at the hands of the Nazi regime. Historians have generally agreed that the Holocaust began in 1933 with the Nazi rise to power and ended in 1945 with the defeat of Nazi Germany.
- **juif/juive:** French word for Jew/Jewish woman
- **Kristallnacht:** also called “The Night of Broken Glass,” was a series of coordinated attacks by the Nazi government against Jews in occupied territories on November 9-10, 1938. Thousands of synagogues were burned, Jewish shops were raided, and thousands of Jewish men were sent to concentration camps. Kristallnacht signifies a turning point in Jewish life in Europe under Nazi rule.
- **La Milice:** a political paramilitary organization created by the Vichy régime (with German aid) to help fight against the French Resistance during World War II.
- **Marshall Pétain:** the head of the Vichy Government and Nazi collaborationist.
- **Nazi Party:** also known as the National Socialist German Workers Party, was the far-right racist and antisemitic political party led by Adolf Hitler. The Nazi regime was in power from 1933-1945. Nazi ideology was racist, nationalist, and anti-democratic.
- **Occupied Zone:** parts of Northern France, including Paris, that were occupied by the Germans beginning in 1940.
- **Resistance:** underground movements in occupied Europe that defied Nazi orders. Acts of resistance varied, and included forms of cultural, spiritual, creative, and physical resistance.
- **Shoah:** the Hebrew word for destruction; often used to refer to the Holocaust.
- **Vel d’Hiv:** was the largest French deportation of Jews during the Holocaust. It took place in Paris on July 16–17, 1942. 13,000 men, women, and children were arrested and deported, many of them sent straight to their deaths.
- **Vichy Government:** The government in the South of France (the “Free Zone”) that totally cooperated with the German regime and targeted French Jews.
- **Yellow Star:** six-pointed yellow Star of David that Jews throughout occupied Europe were forced to wear as a form of identification.



Ruth Kapp Hartz is a dedicated speaker on the subject of the Holocaust, tolerance, prejudice and discrimination.

As a young girl, age four, during World War II she was a hidden child with her family in southern France. In addition to being sheltered by sympathetic villagers, she spent six months in a small Catholic convent to avoid capture by both the Vichy French Police and the Gestapo. Through unusual good fortune, she and her parents survived the war and returned to Paris shortly thereafter. Her childhood memoir, "Your Name Is Renee" was published as a hard-back edition in 1999 by the Oxford University Press. It has also been published in French as well as a supplemental Teaching Guide has been released. Ruth is the director and producer of "A Legacy of Goodness", a DVD about her rescuers.

Ruth went on to complete her studies and graduated from the Sorbonne with a degree in Biochemistry. In 1958 she came to the United States where she was married and raised a family. During that time, she took advantage of her cultural background by becoming a teacher of French language, literature and culture at the Springside School in Philadelphia where she remained for 22 years. She was also an instructor of French at Bryn Mawr College, PA and an adjunct Professor of French at Arcadia University in Glenside PA.

Ruth is a member of the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center in Elkins Park, PA. She received the Legion of Honor from the Chapel of Four Chaplains, awarded in recognition of her service to Bryn Mawr College and the "Selda Frieder Award" at Congregation Rodeph Shalom for her outstanding contributions to the Jewish Community.

She currently maintains a schedule of speaking engagements and is available to a wide range of groups including religious and secular schools, private organizations and professional meetings.



David & Jenny Heitler-Klevans, a performing and songwriting duo known as **Two of a Kind**, have written the musical **HIDDEN**. David & Jenny love bringing people together and building community through music. Best known for their interactive children's performances, Two of a Kind has won over 20 national awards and produced 10 recordings for children, 1 DVD and 3 recordings for adults. David and Jenny write and perform for all ages. Their motto is "*Making the world better one song at a time.*" David has a B.M. in Composition from Oberlin Conservatory and has recently been teaching music appreciation

classes for adults. In addition to teaching preschool music, Jenny is also the Executive Director of Pickleberry Pie Hospital Concerts for Kids. **HIDDEN** is their second musical and is intended for adults, and for 5th-12th grade students.

HIDDEN exists in two versions. The full version is a two-hour show. The travel version is one hour, with a cast of 7 and limited sets and costumes.

Resources (drawn from the Gratz College Suggested Resource List,
compiled by Josey Fisher):

Books [emphasis on books for students, focused on hidden children & young people's experiences]:

- Cretzmeyer, Stacy and Ruth Kapp Hartz: *Your Name is Renée*. Oxford University Press, NY, 2002.
- Fox, Anne L. and Eva Abraham-Podietz, *Ten Thousand Children: True Stories Told by Children Who Escaped the Holocaust on the Kindertransport*. Behrman House, West Orange NJ, 1998. [accounts of 21 children, among the 10,000 children reduced by Great Britain 1938-39]
- Frank, Anne, *The Diary of a Young Girl* (Definitive Edition). Delhi Open Books, New Delhi India, 2020.
- Frank, Anne, *Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annex*. Bantam Books, NY, 2003.
- Friedman, Ina R., *The Other Victims: First-Person Stories of Non-Jews Persecuted by the Nazis*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1990. [Eleven personal narratives of Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, the disabled, African Germans, homosexuals, and others targeted for persecution by the Nazis]
- Meyer, Susan Lynn, *Black Radishes*. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, NY, 2010. [young Jewish boy attempting to flee Nazi occupied France with his family]
- Orgel, Doris, *Devil in Vienna*. Puffin, NY, 2004. [historical novel, based on author's experience as a 13-year old girl who is friends with the daughter of a Nazi]
- Prins, Marcel and Peter Henk Steenhuis, translated from the Dutch by Laura Watkinson, *Hidden Like Anne Frank: 14 True Stories of Survival*. Arthur A. Levine Books, NY, 2016.
- Reiss, Johanna, *The Upstairs Room*. HarperCollins, NY, 1990. [author's account of her years hiding with her sister in the farmhouse of a Dutch family]
- Richter, Hans Peter, *Friedrich*. Puffin, NY, 1987. [tragic story of a Jewish boy in the 1930s, told from the perspective of his friend]
- Ruelle, Karen Gray and Deborah Durland Desaix, *Hidden on the Mountain: Stories of Children Sheltered from the Nazis in Le Chambon*. Holiday House, NY, 2006. [First-person accounts of Jewish refugee children saved by the Protestant community of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in Nazi-occupied south-central France]
- Toll, Nelly S., *Behind the Secret Window: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood During World War II*. Dial Books, NY, 1993. [First-person account of an 8-year-old in hiding who used painting to express fantasy and hope in contrast to the fear and grief of her daily life]
- Volavkova, Hana, ed., *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp 1943-44*. Schocken Books, NY, 1993.
- Voorhoeve, Anne C., *My Family for the War*. Dial Books, NY, 2012. [experience of a child saved through the Kindertransport and her challenges re-uniting with her family post-war]

Websites/Links:

- Facing History and Ourselves: <https://www.facinghistory.org/>
- Hartz, Ruth Kapp, *Your Name is Renée* Holocaust Education website: <http://www.yournameisrenee.com>
- *HIDDEN* musical website: <https://hiddenthemusical.com>
- Holocaust and Genocide Education Resources (Gratz College): <https://www.gratz.edu/academics/program/hgs/holocaust-educator-resources>
- Oral History Interview with Ruth Kapp Hartz (Gratz: Holocaust Oral History Archive): <https://hoha.digitalcollections.gratz.edu/item/oral-history-interview-with-ruth-renee-kapp-hartz/>