

Welcome!

1

Grab a folder from the back.

2

Sign in on the session sign-in sheet.

3

Walk around the room and answer the questions on the wall.

Teaching Tough Topics Through the Power of Picture Books

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PROGRAM OF THE MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION



HOLOCAUST EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

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 - How do you currently address sensitive historical topics in your classroom, and what challenges do you face?
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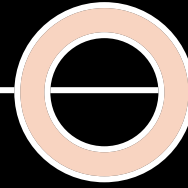
What are some things your students go through outside of school?

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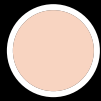
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How does that affect them in school?



We advise against using graphic imagery to shock students. Many of them are dealing with enough trauma as is.



Picture books are a great entry into tougher topics.



~~Picture books are only for younger children.~~

False

Their brevity, visual storytelling, and emotional resonance make them powerful tools for older students.

A study on eighth-grade students found that reading aloud from picture books "helped the students to internalize the structures of written language used to create every text genre and promote familiarity with the language that serves children well as they read and write independently."

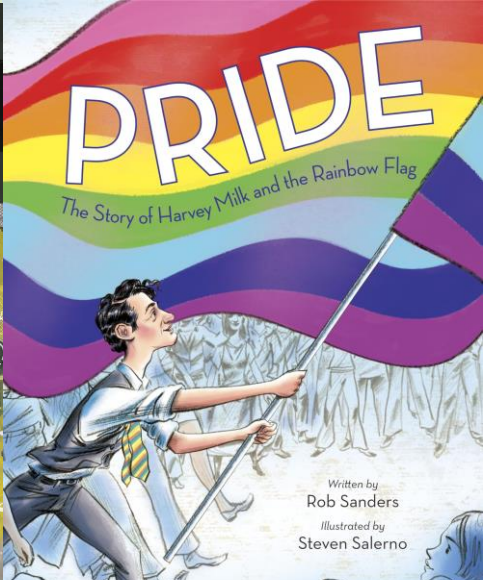
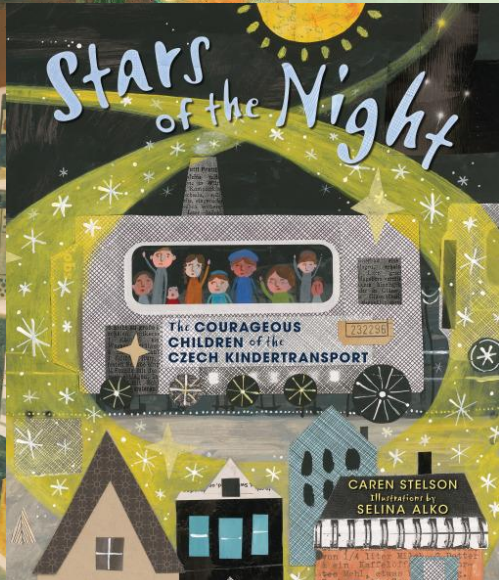
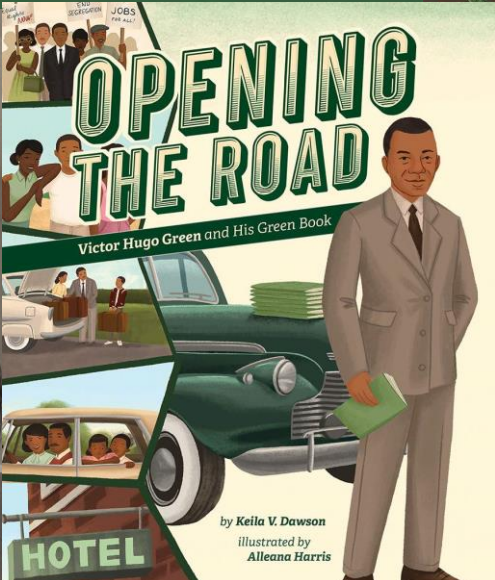
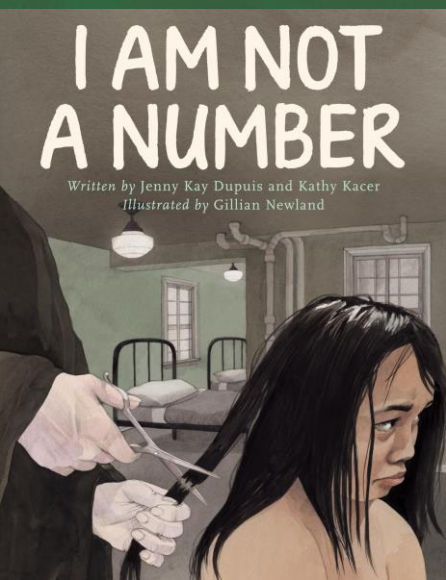
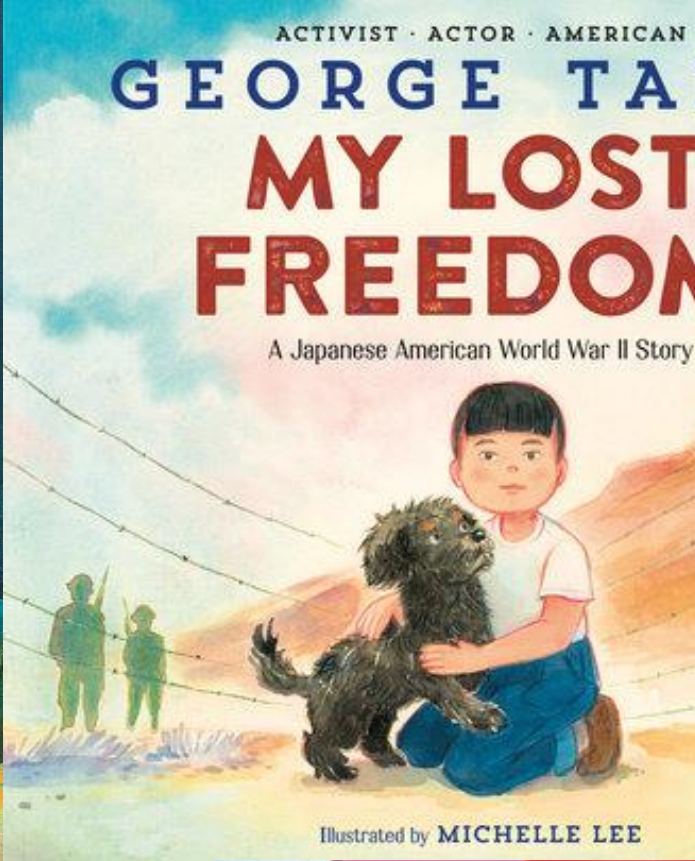
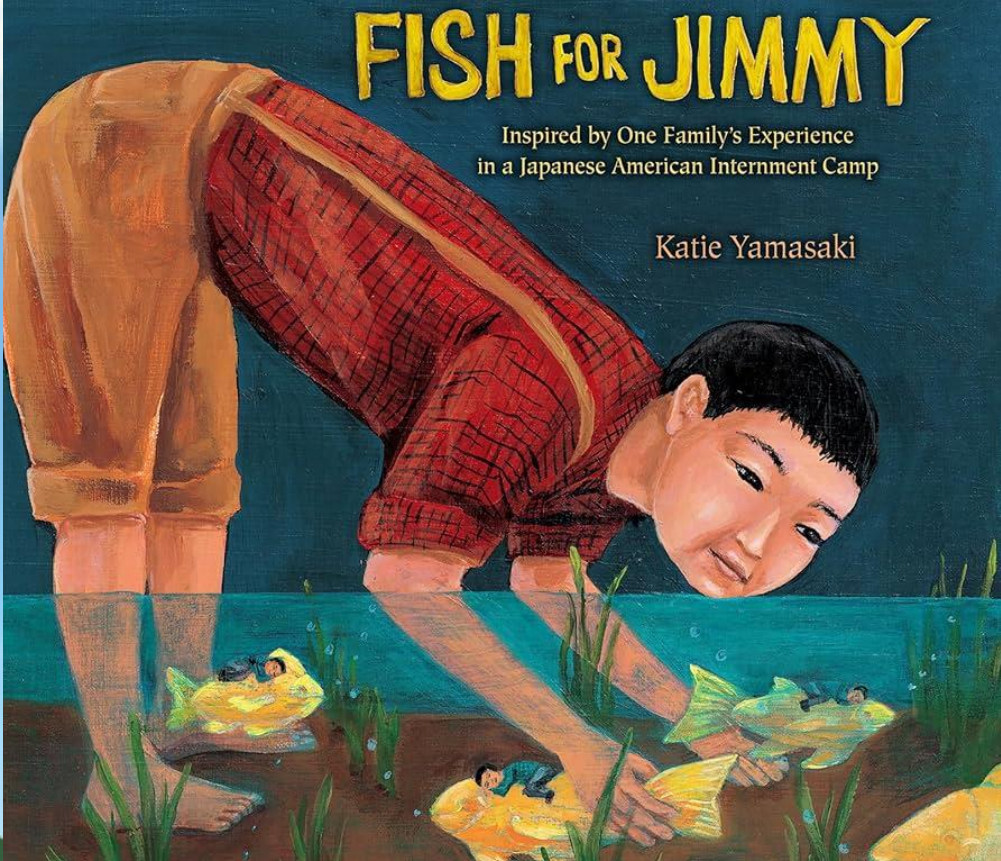
Rowan University

More sources

- [Picture Books as Mentor Texts for 10th-Grade Struggling Writers](#)
- [New Perspectives on Picture Books](#)
- [Picture books in high school: how picture books impact student understanding of revolutionary literature curriculum](#)
- [The Use of Picture Books in the High School Classroom: A Qualitative Case Study](#)



Written by Jen Bryant Illustrated by Toshiki Nakamura



Read-Aloud Ideas



Timeline Connections: Link the events in the story to key historical events using a visual timeline.



Art Analysis: Discuss how the illustrations convey emotion and historical context.



Empathy Mapping: Have students analyze a character's emotions, challenges, and choices.

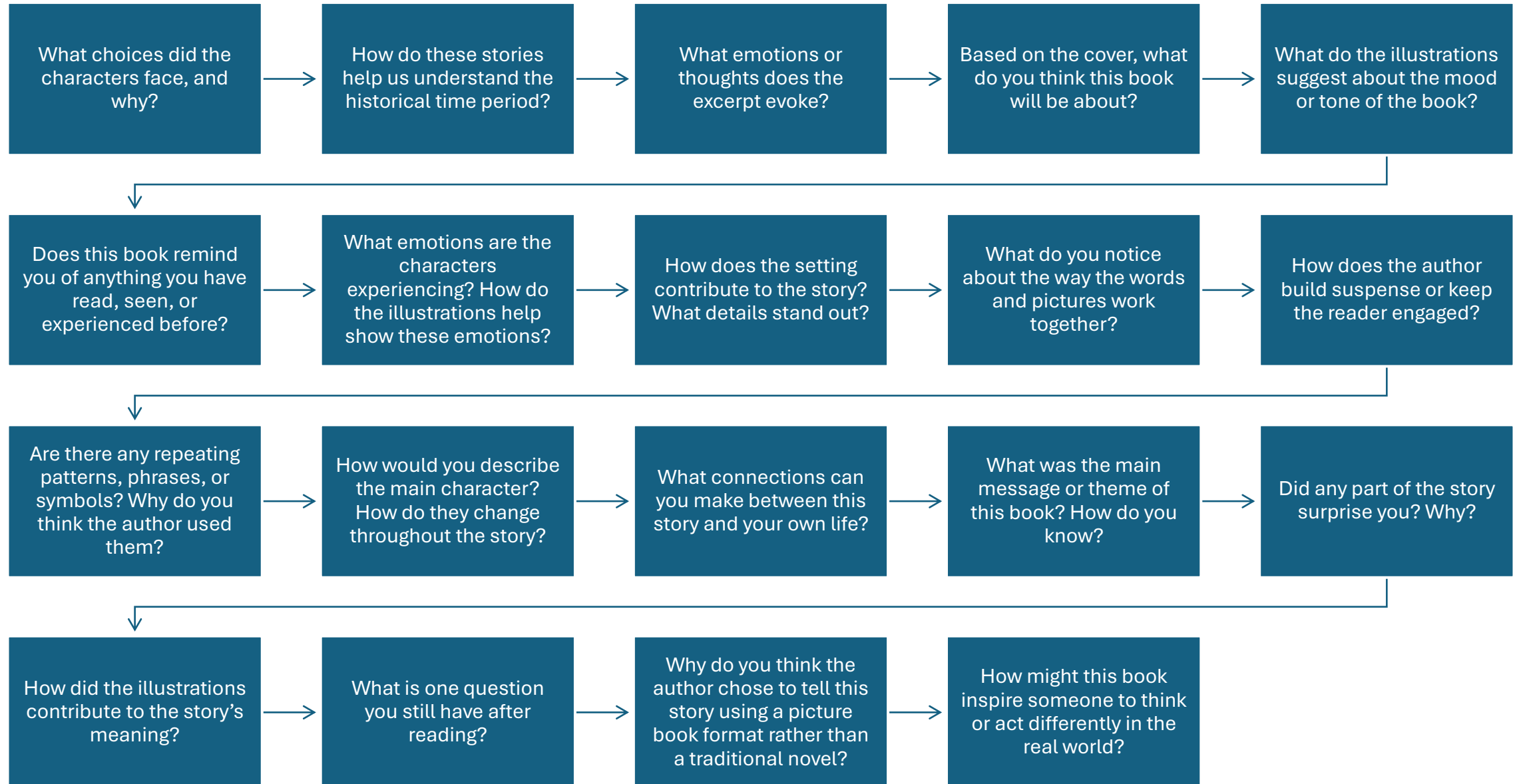


Historical Context Connection: Pair the book with primary source documents or timelines.



Creative Responses: Encourage students to write diary entries or create artwork inspired by the story.

Questions



More Questions

What do you notice about the illustrations? Do they give any clues about the historical setting?

Have you heard of any other books, movies, or stories about this event? How might this one be different?

What details in the text and illustrations help you understand the time period?

How does this book help you see this historical event from a personal or emotional perspective?

What role do ordinary people play in this historical moment?

What information does the author include that might not be in a traditional history textbook?

How does this book help us understand history in a way that facts alone might not?

How does this event connect to modern issues or events happening today?

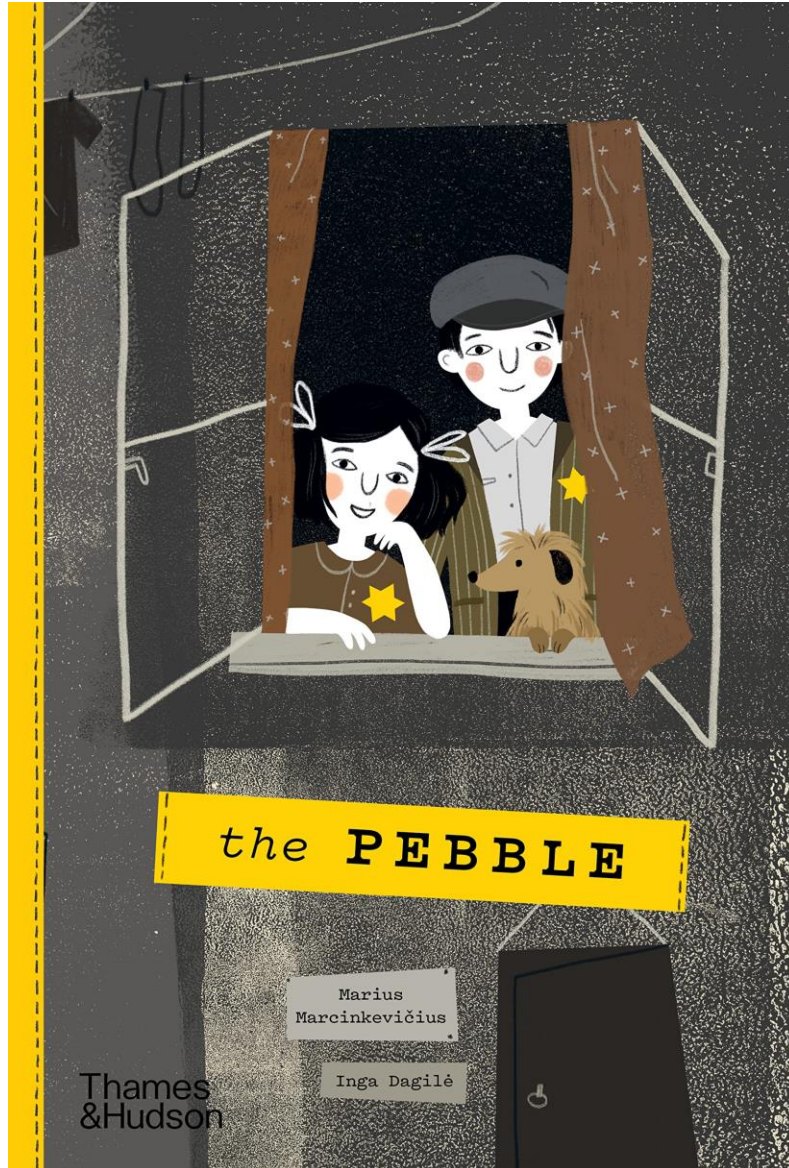
What lessons can we learn from this historical event?

How did the people in this story show courage, resilience, or leadership?

Do you think this book is a good introduction to this historical event? Why or why not?

What details in the illustrations or text make the event feel real and relatable?

Why do you think the author chose to write about this event for younger audiences?



the **PEBBLE**

Marius
Marcinkevičius

Inga Dagilė

Thames
&Hudson

Your turn



In small groups, choose one picture book to look over.



Scan through the book as a group.



On the giant sticky notes, write the name of the book and the topic it covers.



Then make a list of ways you could use this book in the classroom.



Be ready to share your book with the group.

Resources in folder



Curated book list by topic



List of general questions for any
picture book

HERC Resources

Holocaust Education Map – over 100 sortable ready-to-use lesson plans at teachholocaust.org

[Speakers Bureau](#) – Holocaust survivors or their descendants can come speak to your class

[Writing & Art Contest](#) – open to Wisconsin students in grades 7th-12th

Free copies of [The Assignment](#) by Liza Wiemer

Curriculum assistance

[Professional development](#)