

As we follow this series of articles on the Holocaust and think about the above questions, we will learn that the Holocaust was not an accident in history — it happened because individuals, governments and organizations made choices that legalized discrimination and allowed prejudice and hatred. In the weeks to come, we will learn about social responsibility, moral courage and the importance of standing up to intolerance.

There are Holocaust survivors, liberators and witnesses living in Washington state. Some have agreed to share their stories and experiences with us. Their first-hand accounts personalize this history and give us unique insight into the events that occurred. The stories of survivors and witnesses to the Holocaust force us to ask, "What is my responsibility?"

activities

1. Using the questions provided in today's article, discuss what you think the answers might be. Then, as a class, brainstorm your own set of questions that you would like answered during this unit. As a class, keep track of the answers to these questions and those you brainstorm over the next few weeks.
2. In this article, the author states that the Holocaust was not an accident in history but rather was the result of choices people made. Think about this statement and write a paragraph explaining what you think she meant by it. Then, look in today's Seattle Times for an article that describes an event that didn't just happen but was the result of choices people made. In your own words, summarize the article and identify at least two choices that could have made that would have resulted in a different outcome. What might the outcome have been if the choices were different?

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