



Lights of Kindness in Our History

IN THE GRAPHIC NOVEL *WHITE BIRD*, by R. J. Palacio, Sara Blum tells her grandson about her experience as a child during World War II in France. We learn that her classmate Julien and his family risked their lives to protect her from the Nazi Holocaust. And we see how simple kindness can be revolutionary to those facing tragedy.

How has kindness lit the way through other dark times in history? Choose a desperate historical event or time period (or one your teacher assigns) and research acts of kindness that kept hope alive in those days. Use this planning sheet to take notes. Once done, create a brief slideshow to teach the class about what you learned.

1. The event or period in history I am researching: _____
2. When did it happen? _____
3. Where did it take place? _____
4. Who were the key figures in the period or event? _____
5. What caused it to occur? What's the background? _____

6. What types of experiences did those living during the period or event have? _____

7. How was kindness shown during this time? _____

8. What, in your opinion, were the positive effects of this kindness? _____



Need help finding information? The National Archives (www.archives.gov) and The Library of Congress' Memory Collection (memory.loc.gov) are good places to start.