



Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine is a true story about Hana Brady, a young Jewish girl from Czechoslovakian who lived during the Nazi era. It is a powerful and moving account that sheds light on the human stories during the Holocaust.

“The story is still loved by kids, teachers, and adults. That’s humbling and kind of stunning to me. It’s sad that the messages in the book are even more important now than when I first wrote it, with the proliferation of Nazi symbols, anti-Semitic incidents, and hate incidents of all kinds. So, I’m glad that it’s still an excellent learning tool for teachers and for parents who want to introduce kids to the Holocaust. But I wish it wasn’t as relevant now as it is”.

Karen Levine for *Quill & Quire*

Teaching this lesson plan could take approximately 2 weeks, it includes 6 lessons broken into 3 learning sections (before reading, during reading and after reading). Some lessons will take more than one day.

Scope & Sequence: Hana’s Suitcase (for Grade 6-8) - Prepared by Kami Francis and Jessica Sutherland of the OCDSB. Based on [CHES Original Doc/Second Press Teacher’s Guide](#)

Before Reading

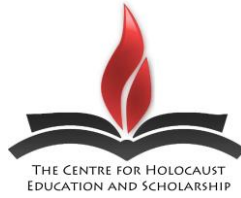
1. Pre-teach vocabulary related to the Holocaust. [One Week lesson plan OCDSB HWEG](#)

Vocab: the Holocaust, the Nazi party, Adolf Hitler, racism, Jews, Jewish, Anti-Semitism, deportation, concentration camps, extermination

2. Listen to the CBC radio documentary (28 mins)
 - a. [The Story of Hana's Suitcase](#) (The tale behind the story)

During Reading

3. [Questions and Answers](#): The teacher gives assigned readings, using the attached guided questions. After each section is read, share the questions with students. Teachers can choose to assign these questions individually, in groups or as a class discussion.



4. Have students make [text connections](#) (Text-Text, Text-Self, Text-World, Text-Media)

After Reading

5. Teacher will assign [True or False quiz](#) as an assessment of reading comprehension.
6. Watch "[Inside Hana's Suitcase](#)" (Sign up through Reel Canada - FREE)
 - a. Pre-watch the video to see if it is suitable for your class
 - b. During the viewing, students are asked to take notes on character, plot and setting ([make a chart](#)).
7. Culminating activity: [Pack my Suitcase](#) (teacher outline and student handout). Students will use the teaching activity guide to identify what they would pack in their suitcase. Once they have created their suitcase, they will present it to the class.

Accommodations

MLLs - For students learning English as a second language, all these resources can be viewed using translation software (eg. Google Translate on an ipad).

Students with an IEP accommodation to use Google Read and Write can do so during the lesson plan.

Additional Resources

[Hana's Suitcase PDF](#)

[Montreal Holocaust Museum - Hana's Suitcase](#)

[Hana's Suitcase - Making Connections](#)