

## 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts

Pine Ridge Middle School, Naples, FL

By William Fiore

My seventh grade class had the opportunity to listen to the experiences of the holocaust survivors and ask questions of the authors of the **Holocaust Survivor Cookbook**. It was an experience that I'm sure enriched their lives and fostered a sense of appreciation for history. To further the message, I decided to create a lesson plan using a story from our Prentice Hall Literature book that we use in our curriculum. The story is called *Suzy and Leah*, written by Jane Yolen. The author's Jewish heritage inspired her to write a story about Leah, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, who is relocated to a refugee camp in upstate New York. Suzy is the American girl assigned to teach her English and introduce her to American culture. The story, told through a series of diary entries, highlights the need for sensitivity and patience of different cultures and backgrounds.

### Lesson Plan

**Audience:** Middle School

**Objective:** Teach the need for sensitivity and patience for different cultures and backgrounds.

### **Agenda:**

1. Give students an *anticipation guide asking* for short responses to the following questions, followed by group discussion
  - a. In relationships, are actions more important than words?
  - b. Can first impressions be changed?
  - c. When someone enters a group it is his/her responsibility to get involved?
  - d. What can we learn from people who are different from us?
  - e. It is wrong to hurt someone just because he/she is different?
2. Vocabulary guide with the following words:
  - a. refugee
  - b. penned
  - c. porridge
  - d. cupboard
  - e. falsely
  - f. permanent
  - g. kosher
3. Have partners read each part Suzy/Leah aloud to each other.

4. Have students write a diary entry from the standpoint of one of the characters in the future after Suzy and Leah have become friends. What will they say to each other? Talk about in the future?
5. Are there any current world events that involve strife? What can we learn from the events of the Holocaust that can make the world a better place today?