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## STORIES FROM **WILLEDEN LANE N.W.6**

BE PART OF A LONDON FIRST – AN INTERDISCIPLINARY  
PROJECT FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 6–8

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### **HOW DO I REGISTER TO TAKE PART IN THE STORIES OF WILLEDEN LANE?**

Fill in the registration form [here](#) and a member of the Trust's team will be in touch with more information.

If you have questions, you can email [willesdenlane@het.org.uk](mailto:willesdenlane@het.org.uk) or contact the team at the Holocaust Educational Trust on **020 7222 6822**.

### **WHAT SUPPORT WILL TEACHERS RECEIVE?**

1. A dedicated teaching guide, which will include
  - + A summary of the novel
  - + Principles for teaching the Holocaust and the **Stories from Willesden Lane**
  - + A scheme of work for teaching **Stories from Willesden Lane**
  - + Essential historical background information
2. Classroom resources for delivery of the scheme of work, including materials focussed on the book and resources on
  - + Pre-war Jewish life
  - + The persecution of Jews before the Second World War
  - + Britain and the *Kindertransport*
  - + Supplementary texts to read alongside the book
3. Free optional continuing professional development

### **WHEN WILL THE CPD TAKE PLACE? AND HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

CPD for the project will be provided in the spring term of 2018. Schools which register to take part in the project will receive details in the autumn term.

### **WHAT ARE THE THEMES THAT MY STUDENTS WILL COVER?**

- + Jewish life and persecution under the Nazis
- + The *Kindertransport* and Britain's response to the plight of Europe's Jews
- + Life as a refugee
- + Life in wartime London
- + Rescue and the importance of collective action
- + The difference individuals can make
- + Resilience and self-empowerment
- + The power of music

### **HOW LONG WILL THE SCHEME OF WORK TAKE FOR STUDENTS TO COMPLETE?**

Assuming that a school is reading the whole book, and that there is mixture of reading in class and as homework, we estimate 10-12 classroom hours, including time for using other resources.

You will receive your books in January 2018.

### **WHAT AGE GROUP IS STORIES OF WILLEDEN LANE SUITABLE FOR?**

We recommend that this project be completed with students in Year 6 – Year 8.

If you would like to discuss options for students who are outside of this age range, please contact the team at the Holocaust Educational Trust on **020 7222 6822** or [willesdenlane@het.org.uk](mailto:willesdenlane@het.org.uk).

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO TAKE PART IN STORIES OF WILLESDEN LANE?

**Stories from Willesden Lane** is a **free of charge** programme for schools across London.

You will receive free copies of the book, tune in to watch the testimony of a *Kindertransport* refugee, attend a free performance of *The Children of Willesden Lane*, and have the option to take part in free CPD.

The school will be responsible for the cost of transporting students to and from the theatre on the day of the performance.

## WHAT ARE THE DATES THAT I NEED TO SIGN UP FOR?

The performances of *The Children of Willesden Lane* will take place in Central London on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th June 2018.

Each performance will last for approximately 1 hour. When you register your school, you will be asked to indicate which date you would prefer. If you are able to be flexible we will allocate you places in the new school year.

You will also be able to take part in a special webcast where your students will be able to watch the testimony of someone who came to the UK on the *Kindertransport*, and ask questions. This will take place on Tuesday 22nd May and will last for approximately 1 hour.

## WHAT WAS THE KINDERTRANSPORT?

Before the Second World War, like other countries, Britain was apprehensive about allowing Jewish refugees to enter in large numbers, despite increasing evidence of the injustices they were suffering in Germany. It was only after the *Kristallnacht* pogrom in November 1938 that policy was relaxed to some extent, with the government agreeing to a proposal from Jewish and Quaker welfare agencies that children under 17 could be admitted to the UK. However, there remained restrictions: the children, with only a few exceptions, could not be accompanied by their parents, they had to be sponsored by welfare agencies who would pay a £50 bond as security that the children would not be a burden to the public finances, and they were only expected to stay in Britain only temporarily. The outbreak of war meant that, in reality, many remained in the UK.

This programme – known as the *Kindertransport* – began in December 1938 and brought almost 10,000 mostly Jewish children to Britain until the outbreak of war in September 1939 ended the transports. Most of the refugees came from Germany and Austria but the scheme expanded in early 1939 to include children from Czechoslovakia, initially refugees from the Sudetenland region, which had been occupied by Germany under the terms of the Munich Agreement of September 1938, and then from the country as a whole following its invasion by Germany in March 1939.

The story of the *Kindertransport* is in many respects deeply heart-warming. Most obviously, the children were saved from almost certain death, although none of those involved could have known this at the time. Many children were taken in by loving foster families who cared for them for far longer than they might originally have anticipated. A large proportion of the children stayed in Britain after the war and built new lives and families.

However, it is important for students to realise that life as a refugee was challenging, especially for unaccompanied children. Like generations of immigrants before them, the *Kinder*, as they became known, had to adapt to an unfamiliar culture and, in most cases, to learn a new language. Unlike most child immigrants, they had to do so without their families, a point which raises questions about why Britain did not allow the parents to be admitted. This sense of separation was exacerbated by the outbreak of the war which brought, in most cases, a cessation of contact and, increasingly, concern over the fate of parents and other relatives stranded in Nazi-occupied Europe. Most of the *Kinder* never saw their parents again.

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