

Student Reflections from the Holocaust Education Presentation

-2021-

With gratitude from the 8th grade students at the Waldorf School of Lexington, Class of 2021

- The story Simon told to our class was profound, and it will stay with me forever.
- Simon's positivity has inspired me, and will continue to do so for the rest of my life. The way he spoke truly touched my heart.
- Although Simon's tragic tale brought tears to my eyes, I am deeply honored to have heard and learned from him. He truly is a beam of sunshine glowing through the dark clouds of the Holocaust.
- Even though the Holocaust is such an incredibly tragic event, I was inspired by what Simon said, and by how brave he is. Once again, thank you for brightening my day, and I hope you continue to spread your message to many others, young and old.
- Simon's story was so impactful and amazing to hear.
- The fact that so many people in Terezin continued to make art together even though they were suffering, is amazing.
- I am so grateful we were able to meet Simon and hear his story.
- Simon's story really touched me. I was amazed at his bravery and nobility. It was an honor to hear him speak to me and my class.
- I thought this was a very informational presentation and I am so grateful that we were able to hear Simon's story firsthand. What Simon and Mr. Ludwig are doing is so good for the citizens of the world, especially now that there are people who believe it never happened. I am so, so, so grateful that they were able to talk to us.
- Simon's story has touched my heart. The detailed description of the train brought tears to my eyes. His shining positivity was inspiring, and he helped me grow as a person. I am truly grateful to have been lucky enough to hear him speak.

- In the presentation I learned how resilient one can be, and that a positive outlook is possible.
- I am very glad that Simon shared his story with us. It was interesting and I learned from Simon that it is important to always have hope.
- I feel like one of the most important things that I learned is to always have optimism and resilience, because that will help you get through difficult situations in your life.
- Something that stayed with me is how someone cut up their cello so that they could bring it into the concentration camp. I'm glad that they could find small joys in music and performances.
- The presentation was so interesting, and I loved hearing the stories of Simon's life and the stories of how the musicians risked their lives to bring their instruments to Terezin.
- It was so inspiring to hear Simon's story and I'm very lucky to have heard it. If I were Simon, I would have been terrified, but he said he was not afraid, which is incredible.
- Something that stayed with me is the play that was put on by the children of Terezin.
- The most important thing that I learned from the presentation is that we can never forget or deny the Holocaust.
- I felt very sad, but also inspired by Simon, and at times, I was humored by his jokes.
- I want Mark and Simon to know that they're doing a great job presenting, and especially with the translation of all of our questions. I would also like them to know how thankful I am.
- My heart hurt in a way that I wanted so badly to help every single person who had to experience such hatred. I wanted to do the undoable and change the past.
- Something that stuck with me would be the concerts that they had in Terezin, and the different ways people smuggled in their instruments. Like the person who cut their cello up into many small pieces, to have the joy of playing music
- The most important part for me was how Simon dealt with all that he went through, with music. It made me realize how powerful music can be if only you decide to use it.
- I want Simon to know that that I think it is very brave and noble to talk about the horrors he endured.
- Something that stayed with me from Mr. Ludwig's presentation was the power of the music in that camp. It must have been such a beacon of light and hope among all of the unthinkable atrocities that these people were experiencing.

- I think that hearing Simon's account of the Holocaust, as an actual witness, was so important. Nowadays, there is a lot of misinformation and I will most definitely tell others about what Mr. Ludwig and Mr. Gronowski told me.
- To the presenters – I am so grateful that you are doing such a hard, but important job. Teaching about the Holocaust is the key to preventing history from repeating itself.
- The number of children who died in the Holocaust is a travesty, but knowing they had the joy of experiencing music, and working together to create the play, Brundibar, their form of resistance against Hitler, shows that even in dark times, they could still find joy.
- Simon's story brought tears to my eyes. He is an inspiration to all who meet him because of his optimistic and kind personality. Although his journey was heartbreaking, I am honored to have heard and talked about the tragedies he has overcome in his lifetime.
- I am unimaginably thankful for all the work the presenters do. Educating young people like me is the key to remembering the mistakes of our past, and making sure nothing like this ever happens again.