

Henry Wuga resource: Teaching notes



HOLOCAUST
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DAY TRUST

Learning from genocide -
for a better future

This resource is designed for Scottish secondary schools to support and complement Burns Night celebrations that mark Robert Burns's life and poetry on or around 25 January. The resource introduces students to Henry Wuga, who was born in Germany, fled Nazi rule through the *Kindertransport* and made his home in Scotland.

Enabling students to identify connections between Burns Night, 25 January, and Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January, opens opportunities to discuss and learn about humanity and the importance of protecting human rights and freedoms.

Use this resource flexibly as a part of different activities. It can complement and expand a History, RMPS, Modern Studies or English lesson on Burns's life and poetry, or students can read and discuss the resource during Burns supper activities. Teachers can frame the resource and select discussion questions according to their students' skills and knowledge and time that is available.

The resource and example discussion points allow students to develop as responsible citizens and confident individuals. They contribute to developing students' skills through focus on literacy, communication and working in teams. Students may also have an opportunity to take initiative or lead a peer group. The openness of discussion questions encourage students to think independently and to apply their critical thinking skills.

After students have read the accompanying *Henry Wuga MBE: Reflections for Burns Night* resource about Henry Wuga and his love of Scotland and Burns's poetry, or sections of it, students can discuss the following questions in student-led small groups or with a teacher's support.



Henry Wuga at a Burns Supper

Discussion points and questions on the resource:

- How did Henry resist injustice in Germany during the Nazi rule?
- Why did Henry's parents arrange for him to travel to Scotland on the *Kindertransport*?
- How do you think Henry's experiences in Germany have shaped his experience of living in Scotland?
- Why does Henry love Burns's poetry?
- Do you value the same things in Scotland as Henry does?

Discussion points to include poetry analysis:

- What are the key words or phrases in the extract of the poem?
- What does the poem speak about?
- What do you know about the person who wrote the poem, and how does this inform your understanding of the poem?

Students can explore these questions on the basis of the poetry extract included in the resource or after reading a longer extract which gives students a better understanding of the poem as a whole.



Take the learning further:

Learn more about genocides at hmd.org.uk/holocaustandgenocides.

Find secondary school assemblies and lesson plans at hmd.org.uk/schools.

Find more resources such as life stories, films and activities at hmd.org.uk/resources.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Find out more...

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust: hmd.org.uk
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