



**FACING
HISTORY &
OURSELVES**

CLASSROOM VIDEO • VIEWING GUIDE

THE POWER OF PROPAGANDA

Overview

In this classroom video, English language arts teacher Jackie Rubino is preparing to teach the memoir *Night*, by Elie Wiesel. To build students' historical understanding, Ms. Rubino leads her class in a lesson on the power of Nazi propaganda. Images from

children's books, Nazi recruitment posters, posters from the Hitler Youth, and other resources are shared via a "gallery walk," after which students consider five discussion questions in small groups.

Questions to Consider

1. At **0:18**, Ms. Rubino says of her students, "They'll need to have a general understanding of the historical time period [of *Night*] because, you know, you can't just

throw students into a time period they're not familiar with without giving them some background." Why do you think she says that?

2. At **1:25**, Ms. Rubino says, “I do anticipate a few challenges about this lesson,” and she goes on to describe the difficulties of sharing offensive, demeaning, or dehumanizing images with students. How might you prepare to bring your students safely into and safely out of studying such material?
 3. At **6:15**, a student says, “Adults can tell whether something is right or wrong. Children aren’t as good at that.” How might you have responded to this student?
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Featured

Jackie Rubino

Teacher

8th Grade

Methuen High School

Methuen, MA

Video Goals

- **Witness** how an English language arts teacher builds students’ historical understanding.
- **Observe** students interpreting primary source images in preparation for reading a primary source memoir.
- **Understand** the powerful influence of propaganda in Nazi Germany.

Lesson Resources

- [Visual Essay: The Impact of Propaganda](#)
- [Teaching Strategy: Gallery Walk](#)
- [Holocaust and Human Behavior, Chapter 6](#)
- [Lesson: The Power of Propaganda](#)