

Collier Educator Grant "Stand up for Justice"

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As part of the eighth grade English language arts curriculum, I teach about the Holocaust. Each year, I search for innovative ways to educate and expose the students to this horrific time in our world's history. This is an opportunity for the students to understand the profound effect of intolerance and propaganda upon individuals and groups of people.

In 2013, I was fortunate to meet Myra Roberts and learn of her beautiful work *The Faces of Anne Frank* and her book, *Project Tolerance*. Following this body of work, Myra created *Prelude to the 1940's*, a series of collages depicting the horrors of the Holocaust. The students and I visited the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida to view these exhibits. I include this information because this exhibit made such a powerful impression on the students (I have enclosed 4 of the letters as an example) that I knew that I had to continue with these types of experiences. Last year, I invited Myra to Oakridge to talk about her works and her passion for exposing the dangers of propaganda and intolerance. Not only did Myra bring her works but she invited Steen Metz, a Holocaust survivor, and Robert Hilliard who was instrumental in acquiring assistance for survivors after the war. They all focused on the power of the individual to stand up for justice and to recognize bigotry and bullying. Myra has committed to returning again this school year and will be bringing some of her new works from *Angels of the Holocaust* and her - yet to be named works - about the Bielski Brothers.

Additionally, I would like to invite Ann Monroe Jacobs from Washington, D.C. who worked as an image researcher for Nancy Spielberg on her film, *Above and Beyond*. She is also currently working on a project about the Warsaw ghetto.

I would like to be able to compensate Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Jacobs for the time and expense to speak with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during March of 2016, and would use any grant money to do so.

The comments from the students about the experience of viewing the exhibit at the Holocaust museum and about the presentation last year were so thoughtful, sensitive and powerful that I want to provide our present eighth graders with this opportunity- an opportunity that cannot be duplicated by reading information from a book.