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Bonus Edition

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Who remembers where they were on April 20, 1999?
I do. I cannot believe that it has been 10 years since the Columbine Shootings. When that tragedy happened, I can remember thinking, “they don’t teach you how to deal with this when you are becoming a teacher.”

Do your students remember this? What are their opinions on it? Have they forgotten? Are they afraid it might happen again since violence in schools has not ended? Do they talk about school violence? Do they believe that they are safe?

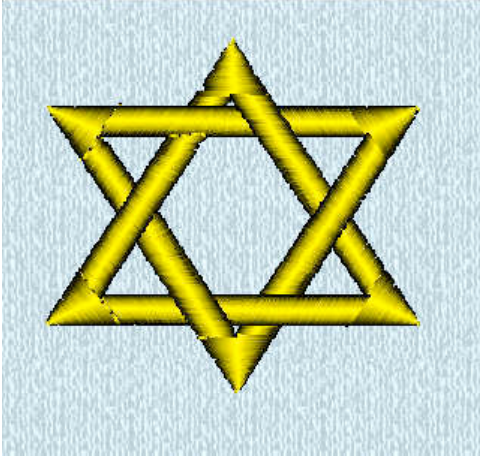
If this is a topic that you are interested in, I recommend two books to you: “Give a Boy a Gun”, by Todd Strasser and “19 Minutes” by Jodi Piccoult.

Gun and school violence is not advocated in either of these books; rather it is an emotional journey on bullying and why the characters lash out against the schools and their classmates.

I have read “Give a Boy a Gun” with students and it is an emotional journey that they do connect with and respond to.

“19 Minutes” is a longer read, but it is harrowing to the local reader since the setting is a small town in New Hampshire.

In “19 Minutes”, the author asks the reader, what can you do in “19 minutes”, and she lists many things such as taking a shower, running an errand, but then she finishes her list with the outcome in the novel as a school shooting.



April 21st is: National Holocaust Remembrance Day.
Do your students know what the Holocaust is?
Do they have any prior knowledge about it?
Can they make connections to the Holocaust and what is going on in the world today?
Have you seen the movie or read the book, "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, by John Boyne"?
If not, I highly recommend the book. I have not seen the movie yet, but one of my students had and said that it was "so sad". She is now reading the book because she did not know that a book existed.

A Lesson Plan Idea

Draw the Star of David as a Jewish person would have had to wear on an armband.

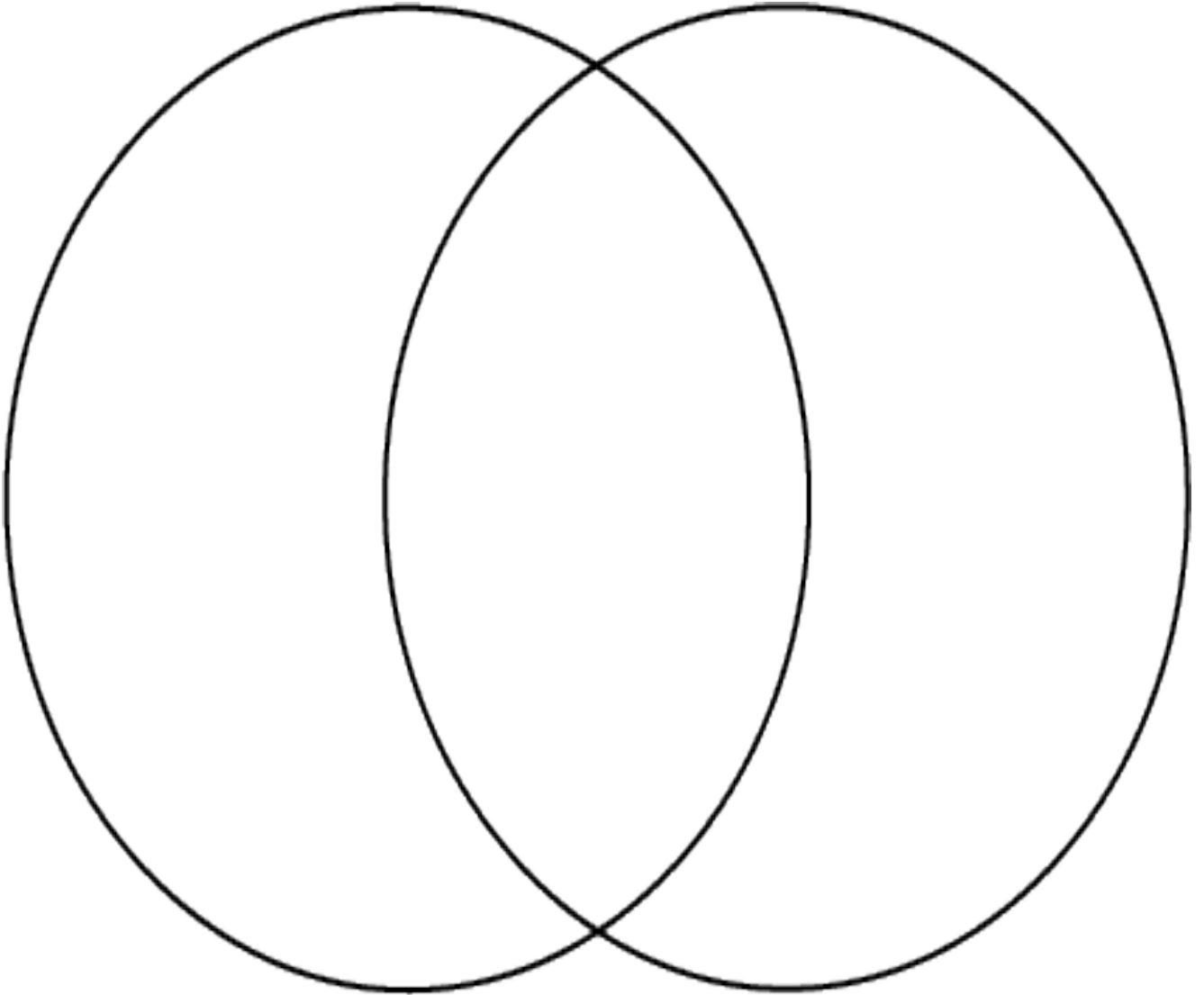
Draw the Nazi Swastika as a German soldier would have worn as an armband.

What is the meaning of the Star of David?

What is the meaning of the Swastika?

Venn Diagram

Compare and Contrast how Jews and Germans feel about the armbands that they experience every day and how history has seen the usage of these armbands.





Celebrate
Earth Day!



Enjoy your vacation!
Rest and relax!