

Thank you for your interest in my Holocaust presentation based on my novel in verse, *Promises to Keep*. I would be delighted to share more information about what I present to students.

During the presentation, I begin by setting the historical scene in Germany as Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power. I explain in an age-appropriate way how life gradually changed for Jewish families as their rights and freedoms were taken away and antisemitism became increasingly accepted and enforced.

I then introduce students to Hannah, the 13-year-old Jewish protagonist of *Promises to Keep*, and take them through her experiences in Nazi Germany. I talk about the challenges and dangers she and her family faced, the difficult decisions they had to make, and ultimately Hannah's journey to escape Germany and find freedom.

An important part of my presentation is helping students understand that the Holocaust is not only something we study from the past—it also has lessons for the choices we make today. We discuss the difference between being a **bystander** and being an **upstander**. I encourage students to recognize injustice, bullying, prejudice, and discrimination and to understand that their individual choices and voices matter.

At the conclusion of the presentation, I challenge each student to make a personal promise: **to be an upstander rather than a bystander** when they see someone being mistreated or an injustice taking place. I encourage them to carry that promise into their school, their community, and their everyday lives.

My goal is for students to leave the presentation with a greater understanding of the Holocaust, but also with something very personal—the realization that each of them has the ability and responsibility to make a difference.

I would be very happy to bring this presentation and the message of *Promises to Keep* to your students. Please let me know if you need any additional information about the presentation.

Warmly,
Patricia Stiehr