MIDDLE SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps by Andrea Warren

English Language Arts, 8th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Jack Mandelbaum was just twelve years old when the Nazis invaded his small Polish town. At first, they just sent his father to the camps, allowing the rest of the family to flee on into the countryside to hide. But eventually, Jack was torn away from his family and sent through the Blechhammer concentration camp where he began his dark journey in the neverending nightmare that is the Holocaust. Jack was the sole survivor of his immediate family, the only thing keeping him alive was the thought of his family, and his resolve to see them again.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- Unit 3: Human Spirit
 - Essential Question: How can a person's point of view impact their understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them?
- Unit 4: Change
 - Essential Question: How can we adapt to change in order to better understand and impact the world around us?

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- RI.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
- R.I.8.3 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.
- RI.8.9 Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation
- W.8.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content
- W.8.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each

source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standards format citation