

Eyewitness to History: A Holocaust Survivor Speaks

Paula Burger: A Young Girl Among the Bielski Partisans



Born in 1934 in Nowogrudek, Poland, Paula Burger's early childhood was idyllic. Her hometown was nearly fifty-percent Jewish, and her family operated a successful ranch and grocery store, making them an important part of the community. However, everything changed when the Nazi Party captured Nowogrudek in 1941. Paula's family, including her mother, father, and her little brother Isaac, were forced into the Nowogrudek ghetto. With time, Paula's father joined the legendary Bielski Partisans, a Jewish resistance group. After their mother was killed, Paula's father orchestrated for his children to be smuggled out of the ghetto to join the partisan community in the Naliboki Forest. In 1945, Paula and her remaining family were liberated. Eventually, they immigrated to the United States and started a new chapter.

Prior to her passing in 2019, Paula shared her story with thousands to inspire others to overcome adversity. Paula's story is a testament to resilience, strength, and the enduring human spirit.

To learn more about Paula, you can read her book [*Paula's Window: Papa, the Bielski Partisans, and A Life Unexpected.*](#)

Questions to Consider

How did immigration policies in countries like the United States impact refugees during and after the Holocaust?

"I have no rhyme or reason to tell you why I survived, and a million other children did not. For me not to tell that story, how could I not?... You have to remember your past to make sure [events like the Holocaust] do not happen again." - Paula Burger

Drawing from the quote above, and Paula's story, answer the following personal reflection questions:

- Where do you see hatred and racism in the world today?
- What actions can you take to stop hatred in your own community?



Mizel Museum Virtual Programs Colorado Academic Standards *Eyewitness to History: A Holocaust Survivor Speaks (9th-12th Grades)*

This document lists the Colorado Academic Standards met by the Mizel Museum's virtual Eyewitness to History programs for 9th through 12th grade (also available for 6th-8th). This program aligns with requirements in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Public Schools Bill (Colorado HB20-1336) and is included in the Colorado Department of Education's Teaching About the Holocaust and Genocide Resource Bank. This lesson series was developed in partnership with the USC Shoah Foundation. Contact us with questions or to book at details@mizelmuseum.org.

Jack Adler: A Slave Laborer in the Holocaust

- CH20-GR.HS-S.3-GLE.3
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.5
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.1
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.2-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.3

Jack Adler: Countering Hate with Respect

- CH20-GR.HS-S.3-GLE.3
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.5
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.7
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.9
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.1
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.2-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.3

Paula Burger: A Young Girl Among the Bielski Partisans

- CH20-GR.HS-S.3-GLE.3
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.5
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.9
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.1
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.2-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.3

Rudi Florian: Propaganda & Personal Responsibility

- CH20-GR.HS-S.3-GLE.3
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.5
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.7
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.9
- RW20-GR.H1-S.2-GLE.2
- RW20-GR.H2-S.2-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.1
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.2-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.3
- VA20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.1

Osi Sladek: A Courageous Escape from Hate

- CH20-GR.HS-S.3-GLE.3
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.5
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.7
- CH20-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.9
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.1
- SS22-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.2-GLE.3
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.2
- SS22-GR.HS-S.4-GLE.3