



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
& EDUCATION CENTER

Activity #6

Students will write a poem about an object from the exhibition or their own lives. This object will be the subject of their poem.

Begin the word gathering steps below. Word gathering involves gathering words and ideas to use later in writing their poem. Let the words flow and write as much as possible for each step in the time allowed.

Word Gathering

Step 1: Where did you find the object? Where did it come from? Describe place and setting.

Step 2: Describe the object. What is its size, shape, color, texture, etc.?

Step 3: Alter perspective and describe the object further. For example, your student might turn the object inside-out, wear a blindfold as they examine it, look at it from a distance, hold it close to their face or stand over it and look at it from above.

Step 4: Describe how the object is like you. What do you have in common? Think about personality traits, physical characteristics, experiences, etc.

Step 5: Describe how the object is like a family member. What do they have in common? Think about personality traits, physical characteristics, experiences, etc.

Step 6: What does this object mean to you? What does it represent or symbolize? Out of all the objects you could have chosen, why did you choose to write about this particular one?

Step 7: Name the object. Simply state what it is.

Once students have written their poems, have them share with the rest of the class or post them online where everyone can read each other's work.