Nazi Doctors and Experiments Lesson Plan (3-5 days)

This lesson is recommended after reading Chapters 4, 5 and 6 in “Surviving the Angel of Death”, but can be completed without reading the text.

Lesson Objectives:

- Research historical figures and events, drawing on evidence from reputable sources.
- Analyze informational text from a wide variety of resources.
- Follow the writing process, including the development a rough draft.
- Using gathered facts and information, develop a creative writing project.
- Cite all resources properly to avoid plagiarism.

Indiana Biology Academic Standards:

9-10.LST.6.1: Plan and develop; draft; revise using appropriate reference materials; rewrite; try a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience; and edit to produce and strengthen writing that is clear and coherent.

9-10.LST.7.2: Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative sources, using advanced searches effectively; annotate sources; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; synthesize and integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (e.g., APA or CSE).

9-10.LST.7.3: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.3: Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.B: Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.3.D: Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
Lesson Outline

Day One - Background Reading (Recommended but, may be skipped if time does not allow for it)
1. Read Chapters 4, 5 and 6 from “Surviving the Angel of Death”.
   a. Chapter 4 - Introduction to Mengele
   b. Chapter 5 - Experiment information
   c. Chapter 6 - Eva’s experience

Days Two and Three - Research
1. Each student or group of students select(s) a Nazi doctor who performed medical experiments during the Holocaust.
   a. Examples of doctors that students could choose from, but are not limited to:
      i. Dr. Josef Mengele
      ii. Dr. Carl Clauberg
      iii. Dr. Herta Oberheuser
      iv. Dr. Karl Brandt

2. For their selected Nazi doctor, students should research the following information, using reputable websites such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s website: [https://www.ushmm.org/](https://www.ushmm.org/) and [http://www.auschwitz.dk/doctors.htm](http://www.auschwitz.dk/doctors.htm)
   a. Background (education, work history, etc.)
   b. Experiments performs
      i. Experimental procedure
      ii. Experimental subjects (twins, gypsies, disabled people, etc.)
      iii. Location of experimental procedures (Auschwitz, Buchenwald, etc.)
      iv. Year(s) the experiment was performed
      v. Results of experiment
      vi. Did we learn useful information from the experiments?
Days Four and Five - Project Completion

1. Each student/student group then selects one of the following options for project completion:

a. From a Nazi doctor’s point of view, what reasons would they give for testing ____ based on information you found throughout your research process?
   i. Write journal/diary entries of a Nazi doctor reflecting on his/her experiments, OR
   ii. Write medical notes from the Nazi doctor as he/she performed his/her experiment.
   iii. Information included in these the journal, diary or notes should include:
       1. Date(s) the experiment was performed
       2. Procedure performed on each day
       3. Results (patient symptoms, mortality, etc.)
       4. Any other pertinent information

b. By writing a personal testimony of a survivor (fictional or nonfictional), what are the reasons for why today’s human experimentation regulations are necessary?
   i. Write a personal testimony that includes the following:
      1. Date(s) experiment was performed on the survivor
      2. Detailed explanation of what happened to him/her
      3. Reference to someone who was also being subjected to the experiment (fictional or nonfictional)
         a. Example - If the student’s project is about Dr. Mengele’s twin experiments, the survivor’s personal testimony could reference his/her twin sibling
      4. Discussion of today’s current human experimentation regulations