

**Lesson 10: Readers Theater. A Production of *The White Rose*.**  
by Josephine Cripps, Teacher, Summit K-12 School, Seattle  
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**Objective:** Students will learn about the student resistance group, the White Rose.

**Activity:**

Students will perform a Readers Theater piece, *The White Rose*.

A Note Regarding Readers Theater:

Readers Theater is the dramatic presentation of scripted text.

In classrooms, Readers Theater reaps huge rewards. Students participate in active learning. Their reading skills improve. They internalize new vocabulary and information while developing historical imagination. And stepping into the skins of historical characters, students gain empathy and compassion for others.

Teachers can approach Readers Theater in countless ways. *There is no one right way*. I usually assign roles to students, but some teachers allow students to self-select roles. I often appoint a student director, but some teachers prefer to direct.

Readers Theater can be as minimal or as elaborate as you wish. Performances can be as simple as an in-class reading or as formal as a staged production with an audience. Do what works best for you and your students.

Scripts for Reader's Theater are not always easy to come by. Thus teachers often write scripts themselves. I've included a script called *The White Rose*. I wrote it to help my students explore the power of resistance. Through the story of the White Rose, today's students can see how other students, in other times, stood up for truth and justice.

Feel free to use *White Rose* with your students. Adapt it in any way that works best with your kids. Produce it with a few props and simple costumes, or avoid props altogether and simply clothe the readers in traditional black. Create the piece you and your students want to watch.

For further information about the White Rose, there are excellent websites:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/rose.html>

<http://www.holocaust-history.org/short-essays/white-rose.shtml>

**Materials:**

- A copy of *The White Rose*, one per student
- Basket, carried by Sophie's mother during the Gestapo scene (optional)
- Music of Fats Waller (recorded or played live)
- Cans of paint and brushes for the Graffiti scene
- Basic Sound Effects (recorded or live) of bombs and gunshot