Holocaust Historical Fiction Narrative Writing Assessment:
A Quick Guide for Teachers

This assessment guides students through crafting a historical fiction story based on a key event in the Holocaust, developing their vocabulary, characterisation, and narrative writing skills.

Resources in this Assessment

1. Task Sheet & Rubric: Outlines expectations, assessment criteria, and grading
2&3. Character Profile Organizer: Helps students brainstorm the personality and backstory of the narrative's protagonist; digital and handwritten templates are available
4&5. Sensory Description & STEAL Methods Practice: Modelled descriptive and narrative writing practice
6. Editing Checklist: Guides students through editing and proofreading their work
7. Negative & Depressing Vocabulary List: A vocabulary list of words/phrases to describe intense emotional or physical suffering
8. Model Story: An exemplar historical fiction story about a child being smuggled out of the Warsaw Ghetto by resistance fighters

Recommended Teaching Process

▶ Step 1: Introduce the Task

- Review the Task Sheet & Rubric (**Resource 1**) to clarify expectations.
- Discuss the genre conventions of historical fiction.
- Review dialogue writing and practice vocabulary building.
- Do a close reading and annotation of the model story (**Resource 8)**, identifying examples of sensory details, dialogue, character description, internal thoughts, strong vocabulary, etc.

▶ Step 2: Brainstorm & Plan

- Use the Character Profile Organizer **(Resource 2 or 3)** to develop the protagonist.

▶ Step 3: Narrative Writing Practice and Drafting

- Students will develop their setting, characters and narrative techniques through the Sensory Description and STEAL Methods Practice tasks **(Resource 4 or 5)**.
- Students begin drafting their stories, using previous practice tasks and linked vocabulary lists as they write.

▶ Step 4: Revise & Proofread

- Students refine their work using the Editing Checklist **(Resource 6)**.
- They add their references in accordance with formatting requirements.

Additional Notes

Assessing Criterion D:

This task fully assesses Criterion B & C, but only includes two strands of Criterion D (i & iii**).** To evaluate Criterion D fully, a separate oral assessment will be required.