Beata Zep Polish language teacher in Music School Complex in Krosno,

# A script for lesson based on the Centropa film “Teofila Silberring - So That Memory Doesn't Die”.

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Subject : “We know ourselves only to the extent we have been tested” (W.Szymborska).

Human attitudes towards different life situations.

**Purposes of the lesson:**

* to get to know various works of art, and here: a film with Anna’s Polony very evocative narration
* to interest learners in so-called „ spoken history” by witnesses of important historical events
* to develop proper values and attitudes of learners; to focus on dangers which are hidden in such words as : stereotypes, anti-Semitism
* to sensitize to the complexity of the evaluation of other people
* to confront already known issues connected with particular historical situation that was shown in the film

**Lesson Process**

# After seeing the film “Teofila Silberring - So That Memory Doesn't Die” together with learners, the teacher reminds them about the stereotypes which are not always the best way to state our opinion about different Nationalities ( German ) -not good, Jew- sufferer or a cunning person).

A brief discussion of the film aspects and dividing the class into three groups with designated tasks:

**Group 1** – searching for both positive and negative war and post-war attitudes of Polish people which were shown in the film **Group 2** - positive and negative attitudes of German People **Group 3** – positive and negative attitudes of Jewish people

Presenting the work of the group in the form of a table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Positive | Negative |
| 1. Polish people e.g.

- Tadeusz Pankiewicz – owner of the drugstore, who helped Polish people in the ghetto, he was providing Tosia and her family with food, - Zofia Godlewska with her mother,-women, which are described by the film main character as “ They were really poor, but helped us the most”- others who helped the film character, e.g., aunt Hela’s cook, who was bringing “blueberry dumplings” to her | 1. Polish people e.g.,

- post-war tenement residents on Miodowa streets, who did not allow Tosia to enter her own flat, they did not open the door, except for the housekeeper. Tosia only wanted to take back her personal things, other people talked with anxiety “the owner is back” |
| 1. German people, e.g.,

- Oskar Schindler „He really loved us and did everything just to sweeten this time for us”- after war, Mr Konradi “was the first German person I shook hands with, he was a wonderful person” | 1. German people, e.g.,

- the overall image of the German people was rather negative, Tosia talk about them pretty laconically, she says that they killed her father and mother |
| 1. Jewish pe ople, e.g.,

- tremendous attitudes of Tosia’s parents, great Doctor Goldstein character “wonderful Zofia’s husband”- Stenia Hollender “ former prisoner, she was coming from Israel every year with the group of young people (”So that memory doesn’t die”)  | 1. Jews,e.g.,

-„Odmani”- jewish duty service – Tyree pe ople chosen by Schindler, who were cheating, one of them “pushed Tosia and lashed her with a whip”  |

**Conclusions :**

The teacher writes down the conclusions along with learners, e.g.: stereotyping is often wrong, there are both good and bad nationalities. In every country, whether it is war or peacetime, there are people that are wonderful or good-natured and cruel people that cheat and lie. “We know ourselves only to the extent we have been tested”, just like W. Szymborska says, so we should not evaluate other people, if we had not been in their situation. Nobody is born perfectly good. People’s behavior, which is,often requiring dedication, consists of good manners, family, inculcated values and seeing fellowman in other human being.

Introducing context to the elaborated subject, e.g.,

W. Pasikowski “Pokłosie” movie – Polish people are afraid of having their immovable properties taken back by the Jews, different attitudes of Polish people towards the post-war Jewish matter.

R. Polański “The Pianist” movie - similarly as in the narration of Tosia Silbering, positive and negative images of different nationalities

**Task:**

Write how do you understand the title words of the film character Tosia Silberring

“ So that memory doesn’t die”.