



Hans Scholl (left), Sophie Scholl, and Christoph Probst, members of the White Rose, in Munich, 1942; two of the group's leaflets (inset). AKG-Images/Wittenstein/Newscom (Top);

Speaking Up Against Hatred: Hans and Sophie and the White Rose

Exploring Equity: Holocaust and Genocide Education
[Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum, \(ORS. 329.494\)](#)

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-secret-student-resistance-to-hitler-iseult-gillespie>

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Speaking Up Against Hatred: Hans and Sophie

Overview

This Equity Learning Module is designed to spotlight Oregon Equity Initiatives developed by the Department of Education to:

- Inspire and motivate aspiring teachers (high school students, classified employees, college students, and other career changers)
- Help aspiring teachers imagine how they can help change the world as teachers
- Introduce aspiring teachers to resources they'll be able to use as teachers to address equity and social justice

Instructor Notes

- Timeframe for lesson: 1 hour to 3 class periods
- Link to video: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-secret-student-resistance-to-hitler-iseult-gillespie>
- Delivery model: Individual, small group, or whole class
- Relevance for: History, Social Justice, Communications, and Current Events
- Age appropriateness: Middle School through College
- Resources needed: None
- Culturally Relevant Education (Ladsden-Billings, G. 2009): The facilitation of a sociopolitical/critical consciousness that facilitates students' understandings and critique of inequities within educational and social institutions.
- Career connections: Importance of teachers in helping their students find their voice.

Introducing the Module to Students

1. As a teenager, have you ever felt like your voice does not make a difference?
2. Do you see injustice in the world and want to speak out against it?
3. How successful would you be and what risks would you face?

You are about to meet two teens who confronted incredible risks to take action against injustice, genocide, and prejudice. And, yes, this happened back in 1943! Meet Hans and Sophie, brother and sister and members of a World War II student resistance group called the White Rose who used their words to fight against Hitler in Nazi Germany.

LEARN

Background -- In 1943, Allied aircraft rained tens of thousands of leaflets on Nazi Germany below. The leaflets urged readers to renounce Hitler, to fight furiously for the future— and to never give up hope. Their call to action rippled through homes and businesses— and their message even reached concentration camps. They were signed: the White Rose. This video tells the story of a brother and sister at the heart of the movement.

ENGAGE

Questions to ponder:

- ⇒ How do you think the Nazi government was able to effectively target young people in Germany while Hans and Sophie were growing up?
- ⇒ Why do you think Hans and Sophie were not aware of the abuses of the Nazi government while they were initially growing up?
- ⇒ To what degree is this type of brainwashing still possible in today's society? Examples?

In the summer of 1942, Sophie moved to Munich and soon discovered a leaflet under her desk at the University of Munich. It urged Germans to cast off fear and apathy, to rise up against Hitler, to sabotage the war effort - and ended with a call to pass on the message. She was thrilled that someone was expressing the rage she had harbored for years - but who was behind this daring act?

As you learn in the video, she learned it was her brother, Hans. Together they worked on a campaign to resist brainwashing and propaganda and in doing so, risked terrible dangers as they began to speak out against Fascist abuses.

- ⇒ How did their beliefs change over time?

You can access the entire text of all the leaflets the group distributed, at this site:

<http://whiteroseproject.seh.ox.ac.uk/index.php/resources/>

One in particular, found at 55.38 on the link above appeared after a six-month silence. Hans and Sophie had learned strategies from more experienced “propaganda” writers. In this leaflet “Call to All Germans!” the messaging is more direct as they looked beyond the end of the war and dreamed of a new Europe.

- ⇒ What statements in the leaflet do you think were compelling to readers at the time?

REFLECT

- ⇒ What do you think their messages tell us about resisting injustice in today's world?
- ⇒ What injustice in today's world motivates you to fight for change?
- ⇒ How would you use these resources as a teacher?

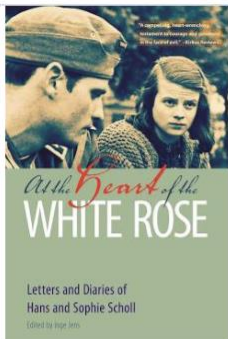
WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Check out the Oregon Department of Education resources on the Holocaust and Genocide at: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/socialsciences/Pages/Holocaust-Genocide-SB664.aspx>

For a first person account of the inner workings of the organization, [click here](#). For an interactive timeline of the Second World War and the development of the White Rose, please visit [this site](#).

For photographs and information about the ongoing role of the White Rose in Munich's history and the pavement memorials at the University of Munich, [click here](#). There are also [walking tours and memorials](#) throughout the city, which you can visit. You can also read *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose* for a detailed background on the group's history and legacy, plus suggestions for further readings.

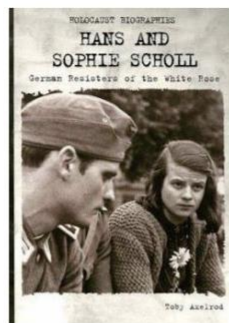
BOOKS:



At the Heart of the
White Rose:...

\$16.29

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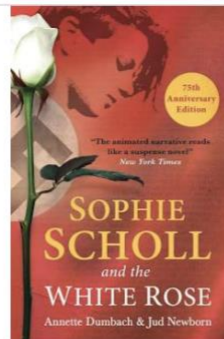


Hans and Sophie
Scholl : German...

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Thriftbooks.com



Sophie Scholl and
the White Rose

\$16.99

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Conscience before
Conformity : Han...

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90-day returns