

LAMS Literary Journey with Nearpod

This February, students of the 8 White Team embarked upon a literary journey focused on historical events surrounding World Wars I and II. One very famous happening during this time period evolved as a 14 year-old girl penned a diary of the two years that she and her family spent in hiding to avoid capture by German troops. This young woman's name was Anne Frank. Since that time, *The Diary of Anne Frank* has been published in over 70 languages and is a world-wide part of educational curriculums around the globe. At Lehigh Area Middle School, ELA students of Mrs. Cynthia Smith read and listened to a stage adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, explored several excerpts from other Holocaust survivors, conducted online research, and actively participated in classroom discussions.

In coordination with ELA, Mr. Tom Weidner, 8th grade history teacher, guided students through a Nearpod timeline presentation of world events from 1918 through 1945. This timeline provided a framework for students to understand the precipitating events that led to Anne Frank's time in hiding and, ultimately, her handwritten diary. This cross-curricular unit of study was enthusiastically embraced by our 8th grade students as they successfully gleaned new knowledge and understanding of world history as it applied to the literature. Many thought-provoking questions and conversations evolved as students were able to synthesize direct connections between the two different areas of study – ELA and history.