

# Teaching Film with Testimony: *The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm*



*The Number on Great Grandpa's Arm* is a short 18-minute documentary film that features a conversation between a young boy and his great-grandfather, an Auschwitz survivor. Their exchange is woven with historical footage and hand-painted animation to tell a heartbreaking story of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, sharing memories and lessons of the Holocaust with a new generation.

This documentary film allows educators and families to introduce the topic of the Holocaust to young children in an age-appropriate manner. It is a powerful resource, as it allows children of all ages to learn about the importance of empathy and understanding, especially salient in our current times. The USC Shoah Foundation has curated a suite of educational activities and testimonies to be used in conjunction with the film, and educators and families alike are encouraged to access these resources located on this teaching guide.

## IWitness Strategies for Integrating Testimony

**Access *The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm*:** The full documentary film is [available for streaming here](#) (link also available from the *The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm* page in IWitness).

**Enlivening the Conversation:** As children watch the film, have them consider the following questions that can serve as guideposts for discussion after the film ends:

- Why does Elliott's great-grandpa have a number tattooed on his arm?
- What happened to him?
- How can stories help us become closer to our families?

**Broadening the Story:** Access and view the curated clips of testimony connected to the film to spark student reflection and analysis of survivors' and descendants' recollections and reflections.

**Engaging with the Themes:** Assign these interactive IWitness activities to provide context and extend student learning.

- *Preparing to View the Film:* The following activities build students' understanding of the themes discussed in the film:
  - What's in a Name?
  - Stories of Courage and Hope
  - Lala / Reflections on Prejudice*
  - Precious Possessions - *The Tattooed Torah*
- *After Viewing the Film:* The following testimony-based activities ask students to debrief the film's theme of legacy and the power of stories:
  - A Hero's Legacy
  - Preserving Family Stories: *Ruth: A Little Girl's Big Journey*
  - Lisa of Willesden Lane* - "And remember that I love you"