



“New initiatives in Holocaust remembrance and education have given us an authentic basis for hope. But we can and must do more if we are to make that hope a reality.

We must continue to teach our children the lessons of history’s darkest chapters. That will help them do a better job than their elders in building a world of peaceful coexistence.”

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
27 January 2009



Ordinary Things?

Discovering the Holocaust through historical artefacts



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Photography: Olivia Hemingway www.oliviahemingway.com

Child's shoe from the Collections of the Imperial War Museum





















Mining the evidence

What can
we learn from
the object?

What are the
contextual narratives?

What are the
'deeper layers of meaning'?



What are the 'deeper layers of meaning'?

Why did they kill a
three year old
child?

Did people know what
was happening?

Why didn't
somebody save him?

Why the Jews?

Who were the
killers?

Why didn't more
people fight back?



The importance of
seeing that each victim
was a real person

Why did they keep
the shoe and kill the
child?

What would he
have done with his
life had he lived?


The innocence
of the victims

One person can stand
for the many victims

Why couldn't his
parents protect him?

What does this tell us
about other mass killings?

How was this
possible in the
modern world?



“Let us remember the victims of the Holocaust by reaffirming our faith in the dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family.

And let us pledge to work together to turn today’s hope into tomorrow’s better future.”

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
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