

ONCE by Morris Gleitzman

Lesson 1: Introduction to Once

We will start our first lesson with a **reflection** on the work we did on *Tom's Midnight Garden*; we will have a discussion about what we enjoyed and found interesting from our work together. Our work on *Once* will begin with **sharing our first impressions** of the book and discussing what we found interesting about the story and how it is written. The students will be given some **information about the author and the context of the book**. Using this information, we will talk about how this information informs our reading of the book. We will then think about how **perspective is used** in the story and consider **why it is important for children to read about historical events**.

Preparation required:

- Read *Once*.
 - Think about what thoughts you have on the book and would like to share with the group.
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Homework:

'It is **important** that **children read stories** about **horrific historical events**, such as **the holocaust**.' Do you agree?

Lesson 2: Discussion of themes

In our second lesson, we will move on to focussing on some of the **major themes** in the novel. We will use a combination of **class discussion** and **looking at extracts from the book** to gain a rich understanding and appreciation of *how* and *why* these themes are explored in the book. When looking at the selected extracts we will also practice our **close analysis skills** (i.e. unpicking the structure, language, and literary techniques used by the author).

Preparation required:

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 1.
 - Think about the following themes and how they are explored in the novel:
 - Storytelling
 - Tolerance
 - Human Rights
 - Racism
 - Survival
 - Morality
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Homework:

“Censorship, such as burning books, is what facilitated much of the spread of Nazi ideology.” What does *Once* suggest about the **importance of reading**?

Lesson 3: Homework discussion and consolidation

Our last lesson will involve a **discussion of the homework** completed by the students (it is therefore *crucial* that they have completed this homework in advance of our lesson). We will start by **sharing our thoughts** with one another and look at **what we did well and how we can improve**. We will then continue to think about some **further questions** alongside **close analysis** of the text.

Preparation required:

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 2.
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Homework:

What is suggested about the **power of storytelling** in *Once*?