



Making Connections

The ideas below are offered as ways to extend the lessons in this unit and make connections to related historical events, current issues, and students' own experiences. These topics can be integrated directly into Echoes & Reflections lessons, used as stand-alone teaching ideas, or investigated by students engaged in project-based learning.

- 1** Visit IWitness (iwitness.usc.edu) to access additional testimonies, resources, and learning activities about pre-war Jewish life, propaganda, and antisemitism in Europe.
- 2** Many people thought that after the Holocaust, antisemitism would disappear. Complete a research project that explores why this form of hate has persisted. Work in small groups to develop a written, oral, or visual presentation. Consult the Anti-Defamation League (<https://www.adl.org>) and Southern Poverty Law Center (<https://www.splcenter.org>) websites among other sources. Some of the following questions should guide the research:
 - What organized groups use antisemitism to advance their goals?
 - How have these groups made use of Nazi ideology?
 - What other groups of people do these hate groups target?
 - What activities of these hate groups are banned by law? What activities are legal?
 - Who joins hate groups? How are young people lured into joining hate groups?
 - What role does the Internet play in spreading the message of hate groups?
 - What recent events have served to increase the intensity and broaden the scope of modern antisemitism?
- 3** Organize a debate as follows: One group argues that the United States government should prohibit the activities of groups and individuals that promote hatred, as in Germany, where the dissemination of racist and antisemitic material is illegal; the other group argues that the First Amendment must be upheld, which includes the freedom of expression for groups that promote hate.
- 4** The antisemitic children's book, *The Poisonous Mushroom* (*Der Giftpilz* in German), was written by Ernst Hiemer and published by Julius Streicher, who also published the antisemitic newspaper, *Der Stürmer*. Gather information from multiple print and digital sources about how children's books like *The Poisonous Mushroom* were used to promote Nazi ideology. Prepare a presentation using PowerPoint or another multimedia tool. Presentations should include examples of children's books published during the period, information about how people responded to the books, if possible, as well as your interpretations of the books and what was learned about propaganda from studying them.
- 5** Answer the following question in an explanatory text or a multimedia presentation: How are we influenced by propaganda in our lives and how can we protect ourselves from harmful propaganda? First, identify examples of propaganda, for example through advertising, social media influencers, or political ads and campaigns. After describing the examples gathered, analyze the techniques that are being used to influence people and what impact they might have. Conclude with ideas about safeguards that might be employed to protect people from any negative influences.