



Equality and Diversity UK

## 1. Assembly Script (10–15 minutes)

**Title:** *Light the Candle, Share the Story*

### **Opening (Staff/Student Speaker):**

Good morning, everyone,

Last week, many people across the world marked an important day called Yom HaShoah. This is a day when the Jewish community remembers six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered during the Holocaust a time of great hatred and injustice over 80 years ago.

The word *Shoah* means “catastrophe,” and it reminds us of the devastation caused when people are judged, excluded, and harmed because of who they are.

But this day is not only about remembering the past. It is also about how we choose to treat one another today.

### **Reflection:**

Today, some Jewish families still feel worried about simply being themselves wearing a Star of David, going to synagogue, or attending school. That should never be the case. Everyone deserves to feel safe, respected, and proud of who they are.

### **Poem Reading (1–3 students):**

*(Read the poem “Light the Candle, Share the Story” divide verses between students for impact.)*

### **Message:**

Each of us has a choice. We can choose to learn about others, to stand up when something is wrong, and to make sure everyone feels they belong.

Let us be like candles small lights that, together, shine brightly enough to overcome darkness.

Thank you.



## **“Light the Candle, Share the Story”**

In every home, in every street,  
Are different lives and hearts that meet,  
With stories carried, old and true,  
Of where we're from, of me and you.  
Some light candles soft and bright,  
As day turns gently into night,  
For those once lost, yet not erased,  
Their names remembered, time embraced.

On Yom HaShoah, flames are lit,  
We pause, reflect, and quietly sit,  
Six million lives, a world undone,  
Each one a star, each one someone.  
From darkest times, courage still grew,  
In Warsaw's streets, the brave ones knew,  
Though hope seemed small, they chose to stand,  
With strength and faith, hand in hand.

Today we walk in freer days,  
Yet shadows linger in unseen ways,  
When fear can whisper, “Don't be you,”  
Or judge a life you never knew.  
A hat, a star, a prayer, a name  
No two of us are quite the same,  
But difference isn't cause for fear,  
It's what makes every story dear.



So, learn the past, be brave and kind,  
Keep open hearts and open mind,  
For when we listen, we will see  
The beauty in diversity.  
Stand up for friends, speak out, be strong,  
When something's said or done that's wrong,  
For silence lets the darkness stay  
But voices help to light the way.

And just like candles, small yet bright,  
Together we can shine a light,  
A world where all can safely be,  
Accepted, loved, and truly free.

Alyson 24.4.26



## 2. Classroom Discussion Questions

### Key Stage 1 (Ages 5–7)

- What makes people different from each other?
- Why is it important to be kind to everyone?
- How can you help someone feel included?

### Key Stage 2 (Ages 7–11)

- What does “remembering history” mean and why is it important?
- How might someone feel if they are judged before being understood?
- What can you do if you see someone being treated unfairly?

### Key Stage 3+ (Ages 11+)

- Why is remembrance important in preventing discrimination today?
- What links can you see between past events like the Holocaust and issues today?
- What responsibility do individuals have in challenging prejudice and antisemitism?

## 3. Follow-Up Activities

### Activity 1: “My Story Matters”

- Pupils create a short poem, drawing, or paragraph about their identity
- Prompt: “*What makes me, me?*”
- Display as a classroom or corridor exhibition

### Activity 2: Candle of Kindness

- Each pupil writes one action they will take to make others feel included
- Place on a paper candle template
- Create a “Wall of Light” display

### Activity 3: Stand Up, Speak Out

- Role-play scenarios:
  - Someone being excluded
  - Someone making an unkind comment
- Discuss how to respond safely and positively

#### **4. Key Messages Poster (for display)**

**Title:** *Everyone Belongs*

- Learn people's stories before judging
- Celebrate differences
- Speak out against unkindness
- Stand with others
- Be the reason someone feels safe

#### **5. Teacher Notes (Safeguarding & Sensitivity)**

- Approach the Holocaust with age-appropriate language
- Focus on themes of kindness, belonging, and standing up to hate
- Avoid graphic detail for younger pupils
- Create a safe space for questions and reflection
- Reinforce that discrimination of any kind is not acceptable

#### **Optional Add-On (For Older Students / Staff Briefing)**

You may wish to connect this learning to current issues, including rising antisemitism, in a sensitive and factual way. Emphasise:

- The importance of allyship
- Challenging stereotypes
- Building inclusive school communities