

Butterfly Project at the Bullock Museum

Thousands of butterflies create a beautifully poignant art installation.

In Fall 2016, the Bullock Museum opened the exhibition *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda*, and created an art installation in collaboration with St. Edward's University that celebrates the power of those who stood up against the Nazis.

Using art as a starting point, the Museum provided teachers and parents with the tools to have conversations with children about issues of tolerance, morality, and shared responsibility — ultimately creating more than 5,000 vibrant examples of how words of hope, change, and love can counter words of hatred.

The Butterfly Project can continue in your home or classroom. By making a butterfly, children can express themselves, and see how their small work contributes to the completed whole — just as small acts against injustice can ultimately create an environment where hate cannot flourish.

Historic Connection:

Between 1942-1944, more than 15,000 children passed through the Terezin Concentration Camp. The vast majority of these children did not survive the Holocaust. Brave teachers in the camp taught art lessons to the children, as a form of art therapy. Some of their poetry and art, saved in suitcases and later discovered, have been published in a book, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp 1942-1944*. These poems and pictures drawn by the young inmates of Terezin illustrate the intense emotions of these displaced children, ranging from fear, sorrow, hope, and courage.

Butterfly Symbolism:

Butterflies are powerful representations of life, often associated with the soul. Around the world, people view the butterfly as representing endurance, change, hope, and life.

Discuss “The Butterfly” poem from the cover:

- What line in this poem means something to you?
- Why did Pavel write this poem?
- Why is it important to study and remember the Holocaust?
- Have you witnessed acts of intolerance in your community?
- How can you take a stand against intolerance?

Learn More:

Online sources

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: www.ushmm.org/learn
- Teaching Tolerance: www.tolerance.org/search/apachesolr_search/holocaust
- United Nations: Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide: www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/
- Bullock Museum: www.thestoryoftexas.com/visit/exhibits/the-butterfly-project

Books

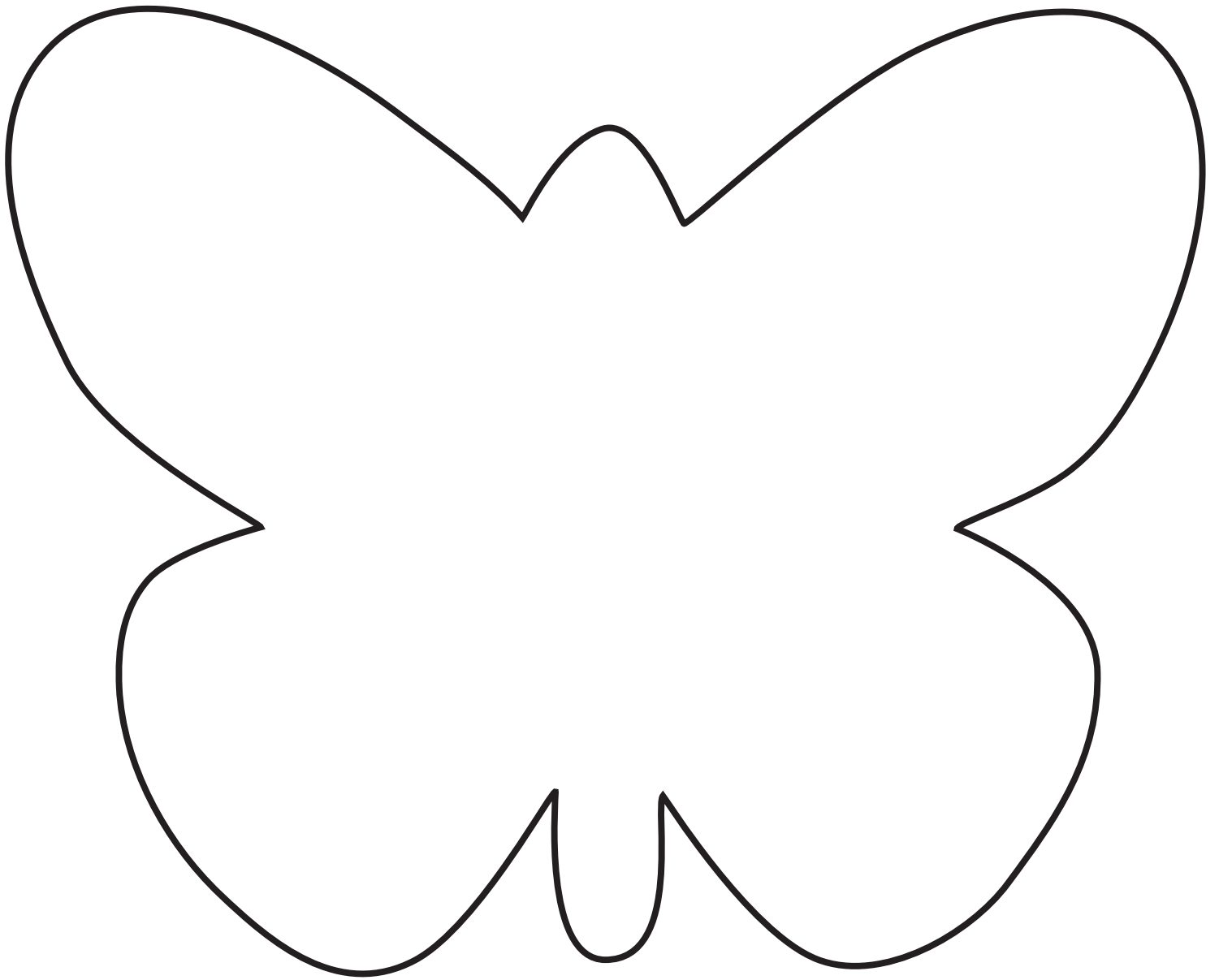
- *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*, Livia Bitton-Jackson
- *Terezin: Voices From the Holocaust*, Ruth Thomson

Vocabulary:

Concentration camp - a type of prison where large numbers of people who are not soldiers are kept during a war and are usually forced to live in very bad conditions

Holocaust - the killing of millions of Jews and those who differed racially, politically, and culturally from the Nazis during World War II

Intolerance - unwillingness to recognize and respect differences in opinions or beliefs and treating others unfairly as a result



By creating this beautiful butterfly, I pledge to take a stand against intolerance.



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TEXAS
STATE HISTORY
MUSEUM**

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