

Rina Lund

THE POEM PROJECT

Walking in the shoes of a Centropa interviewee

Every student has to select a poet who lived during the Shoa and wrote poetry about it. Then the student has to get familiar with the poets biography . Then he has to go to the Centropa website to look for a biography of a " common person " who had been living in the same surroundings (city ,town ,village) during the same period of time. While studying and confronting those 2 biografies the student should imagine those two person living in the same social and cultural environment (sharing the same upbringing , the same way of celebrating holidays , the same fashions , the same food) . Doing so , the student will get a different and broader understanding about the time and place which shaped both , "his"poet and the " common person " he selected from the Centropa archive .

The following are the indications my students got on how to proceed with the " POETRY "- assignment :

- 1 - choose a poet from the list you got - or any you like
- 2 - get familiar with his biography
- 3 - go to the CENTROPA website www.centropa.org
- 4 - go to the centropa interview section and search there among the interviews for a person with the same background (country , city , age , similar upbringing)
- 5 - go to the section with the photos of this biography and observe them very carefully —> what clothing do the people wear , how are their houses / rooms arranged ? While observing these photos , keep always " your " poet in mind and try to imagine him / her in those places on those photos . Ask yourself how this environment you observe , together with the background information you gathered , might have influenced the poets literary work .
- 6 - choose a poem and get familiar with it and prepare the presentation of it in class (reading the poem in front of the class , giving explanations and a short resumee of the poet's biography , creating a PowerPoint) .