



JANUSZ KORCZAK ASSOCIATION OF THE USA

SECOND GRADE LESSON DR. JANUSZ KORCZAK Introduction

Janusz Korczak Association of the USA (korczakusa.com) prepared this special lesson plan for you to include in your classroom studies. We know you and your students will find this human being inspiring.

This lesson plan provides for teachers:

- A background biography of Dr. Korczak for the teacher
- A Children's Story of Dr. Korczak's life and deeds
- Vocabulary to highlight
- A drawing activity for the lesson
- Writing sample to accompany the drawing
- Activity suggestions
- Video primer [Video Primer Korczak Second Grade Lesson](#)

WHO WAS JANUSZ KORCZAK? (yan-ush, kor-chak)

Dr. Korczak wrote the first Children's Rights Declaration ([JK Children's Rights](#)) adopted by the United Nations in 1989. He advocated for the child's self-agency and gave his life opposing oppression. Dr. Korczak is named a Holocaust hero because of his deed accompanying 192 children and 9 staff of the Jewish orphanage to the extermination camp of Treblinka. [JS Biography in brief- video](#)

WHY DR. KORCZAK IN YOUR SECOND GRADE CURRICULUM.

Dr. Korczak's life of devotional service and compassion for all children, especially those in need, provides food for the child's developing moral imagination.

This modern hero co-directed two orphanages, one Jewish and the other Catholic for 100 children each, ages 7-13 for 30 years in Warsaw, Poland from 1912-1942. The orphanages run as democratic republics with a Constitution, a Children's Court and produced the National Weekly Children's Newspaper. Peer-to-peer restorative justice was emphasized along with the child's self-agency, allowing for full participation in their developing self.

Dr. Korczak was ahead of his time including the voice of children and youth in decisions for their living, experiencing democracy in their large orphanage "family" and empowering children and youth as defenders of peace and love.

We invite you to continue to explore using Dr. Korczak's views in your classroom, increasing your students' rights, finding ways to include their voices and giving them means of practicing their skills for restorative justice. You will find more information on our website [Korczak USA](#) and The International Korczak Association [IKA](#).

References:

The King Of Children, by Betty Jean Lifton. A comprehensive biography

King Matt The First, by Janusz Korczak. A youth novel.

Korczak, a film by Andrzej Wajda. Watch "Korczak" on Kanopy <https://www.kanopy.com/video/114221>

How To Love A Child, And Other Selected Works, Volume 1, by Janusz Korczak. Original writings of Dr. Korczak.

Sculptor Of Children's Souls, by Marcia Talmage Schneider. Accounts from adults once children in the orphanage.

The Champion Of Children, by Tomek Bogacki, A picture book for children.

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