# The greatest love story

**Overview information**

Title : The greatest love story

Name of school: Prywatne Gimnazjum Językowe PARNAS, Wroclaw, Poland

Course: English as a second language

Grade: 12-15

Time : one 45-minute period plus a follow up lesson to present their set homework assignment

**Summary**

The lesson talks about theme of love, serendipity, life hardships and happy endings. It is based on literature and film famous couples but it introduces a love story of Otto and Kitty Suchny and the theme of Holocaust. It uses the Centropa film on Otto and Kitty *Only a few couple of streets away from each other,* students are introduced to the theme of Holocaust, fleeing your own country. Students also have to conduct interviews with their family members.

**Background information**

Context or the lesson : persecution of Jews in Europe, WW ll, fleeing your home, Holocaust

Enduring understanding : students will analyse examples of true, real and tragic love stories and realise that they live not only on the pages of books or in poems but among us

Goals :

●students will learn about historic and literary famous couples

●students will discuss and share ideas

●students will google information

●students will watch a holocaust survival story of Otto and Kitty Suschny

● students will do family history project, creative writing, write interview questions, translate from Polish to English

Centropa materials :

<http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema/only-a-couple-of-streets-away-from-each-other?language=de&subtitle_language=en>

**The lesson**

1. Students work in groups/ brainstorming activity : what are the great love couples you know ? ( from literature, history, pop culture, film) what do you know about them ? who are they ?

2. What makes a great love story ? Elicit answers from the students, write the ideas on the board.

3. Tell the students they will watch a film about a great love story.

4. Watch a Centropa film on Kitty and Otto Suschny.

5. Put students into groups and ask them to answer the question: What makes Kitty and Otto’s story the great love story ?

(elicit answers like : they lived a few streets away and never met but then their lives connected, they found each other, they lost their families but they found each other, they survived the Holocaust, they have been married for a long time, they have a happy full family with children and grandchildren )

6.Reflecting/ Kindertransport introduction:

What are the interesting things you saw on film? What made you sad/ happy/ emotional? Did anything shock you? What is the thing you remember the most?

How did it happen that Kitty survived? What does it mean, “*Kindertransport*?” What do you know about it?

Introduce the term to the students, let them find out basic information about the children who were sent to Britain, tell them they will find out more next period. Ask the students to think what might have happened to Kitty if she weren’t sent on *Kindertransport* to England.

7. Homework : Interview your grandparents / elderly neighbors about their love story, how they met, what hardships they had to face. Why is their story the greatest love story? Prepare the questions, do the interview and then translate the interview into English. Set the time for the students to present their interviews.

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