

A NIGHT AT THE GARDEN



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.

<p>What do you notice about the setting?</p>	<p>What do you notice about the people?</p>
<p>What symbols do you notice?</p>	<p>What do you hear?</p>

The German American Bund's Rally

In February, 1939, the German American Bund held a “pro-American” rally at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Approximately 25,000 people claimed membership in the Bund and supported the rise of fascism in Europe. Swastikas were on display next to a large image of George Washington. Speeches and banners containing antisemitic language were part of the evening’s events, as were people wearing the uniforms of the storm troopers. According to the New York Times article “22,000 Nazis Hold Rally in Garden; Police Check Foes,” the meeting was led by Fritz Kuhn, “one of Hitler’s original followers in Munich in 1923.”

Anti-Nazi protestors gathered outside Madison Square Garden, and Mayor Fiorello La Guardia sent 1,700 uniformed and plain-clothes police officers to the event.

After watching the film *A Night at the Garden* or examining the images from the rally, consider the following:

1. What examples of propaganda can be identified?
2. Does the venue for the event hold any significance?
3. Who is in the audience?
4. After reading the version of “The Pledge of Allegiance” used in 1939, discuss possible conflicts between the Pledge and the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” with the actions and beliefs of the audience.
5. What is the significance of the rally being led by Fritz Kuhn?
6. How does this event during the Holocaust differ from the narrative of Americans being opposed to Nazism? What lessons can be learned from it?