

### CVCV Project Description

Assignment: Interpretation of "The Butterfly" by Pavel Friedman  
Grade 8 ELA

The I-movie project was assigned at the end of a unit dealing with the Holocaust, the reading of The Diary of Anne Frank and the viewing of "The Devil's Arithmetic." Students were given the poem "The Butterfly" and a short background regarding the author. They were then placed in random groups and asked to

- determine the main idea of the poem
- set up a storyboard
- decide which student would assume which task (videographer, editor, etc.)
- research books, etc., for pictures or images that would express the meaning & mood they wanted to convey
- research music that would be appropriate for the project
- finally, produce an I-movie

Alignment w/curriculum:

The poem, written by a young Jewish boy shortly before his death in a concentration camp, furthers the themes that students explored in The Diary of Anne Frank and "The Devil's Arithmetic." In addition, the poem provided an opportunity for students to work with poetic language/images using a different medium.

Evaluation was based on:

- Cooperative group work
- Completed movie
- Individual reflection piece

Individual reflection excerpts:

"Pavel Friedman uses a butterfly as his central image because he wanted the freedom the butterfly had." – James

"Pavel Friedman expresses his grief during his time in the concentration camp." – Jessica

"Pavel Friedman uses a butterfly as his central theme because butterflies represent freedom." – Elizabeth

"The mood was sad and full of pain" – LaTeshia

"I feel he used the butterfly because it displayed a powerful message about how the butterfly was free and how dead his environment must have been." – Roscoe

"Pavel Friedman was trying to say that the happiness and faith were gone..." – Julian

"But I found what I love here.: I like this line because it expresses a bit of happiness." – Briana