

Let us pray... O God,
Tonight, we remember the one million children killed during the Holocaust;
and – besides the question “Why?”, we ask “What could have been?”
What would those children have become as adults? What achievements?
What silliness, too? What normal human routine has been lost?
How could this loss have been prevented?

O God,
We can only put this tragedy in the context of the few who still have living memory
of those terrible events – as children themselves,
and the testament of those who recorded what they heard and saw.
Anne Franck’s diary has preserved for us – and future generations,
the aspirations of a lonely, brave little girl living under terrible circumstances
yet affirming what is most hopeful about being human.
Bless Anne with peace.

Her words echo through the years – though her voice was untimely silenced
by death in a concentration camp.

O God,
Through the Jews’ terrible experience may they as your people
continue to bear witness to the threat of anti-Semitism
that opens the door to racism, sexism, and ethnic hatred.

Help us to see – through their lens of history,
the plight of 2 1/2 million children displaced into exile by the Syrian War.

Help us to see that a third of Syria’s schools are closed,
and 1700 thousand children are not attending class,
not learning how to read and write,
in danger of learning only war and not the difference between right and wrong.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/war-years-lost-education-devastated-syrian-children-can-done-help/>
Help us to see that 17,411 children have been killed because of the Syrian civil war.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualties_of_the_Syrian_Civil_War
Help us to ask, “What have we learned?” and help us to apply those lessons...

Amen