



The Promise of Never Again

The Struggle to Prevent Genocide in the Post-Holocaust Era

*Students Handouts and
Supporting Materials for Teachers*

Lesson 1: The Ideal of “Never Again”

| | |
|---|--------|
| Lyrics to <i>Never Again</i> | Page 2 |
| Remedy: Giving <i>Never Again</i> a Hip-Hop Vibe..... | Page 4 |

***Never Again* by Remedy**

Name(s): _____

[Hebrew man praying]

[Intro:]

Feel this
To all those races, colors, and creeds, every
man bleeds
for the countless victims and all their
families
of the murdered, tortured and slaved, raped,
robbed and persecuted - Never Again!
To the men, women, and children
Who died in their struggle to live, never to
be forgotten

[Hebrew man praying]

[Verse 1:]

Yo my own blood
Dragged through the mud
Perished in my heart still cherished and
loved
Stripped of our pride, everything we lived
for
Families cried
There's no where to run to, no where to hide
Tossed to the side
Access denied
6 million died for what?
Yo a man shot dead in his back
Helpless women and children on the
constant attack
For no reason
Till the next season
And we still bleeding
Yo it's freezing
And men burn in hell, some for squeezing
No hope for a remedy, nothing to believe
Moving targets who walk with the star in
their sleeve
Forever marked with a number, tattooed to
your body

Late night, eyes closed, clutched to my
shotty
Having visions, flashes of death camps and
prisons no provisions
Deceived by the devils decisions
Forced into a slave
Death before dishonor for those men who
were brave
Shot and sent to their grave
Can't awaken, it's too late
Everything's been taken
I'm shaken, family, history, the making

[Chorus:]

Never again shall we march like sheep to the
slaughter
Never again shall we sit and take orders
Stripped of our culture
Robbed of our name (never again)
Raped of our freedom and thrown into the
flames (never again)
Forced from our families, taken from our
homes
Moved from our God then burned of our
bones
Never again, never again
Shall we march like sheep to the slaughter
(never again)
Leave our sons and daughters
Stripped of our culture
Robbed of our name (never again)
Raped of our freedom and thrown into the
flames (never again)
Forced from our families, taken from our
homes
Moved from our God and everything we
own
(never again)

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[Verse 2:]

Some fled through the rumors of wars
But most left were dead, few escaped to the
shores
With just 1 loaf of bread
Banished, hold in for questioning
And vanished
Never to be seen again
I can't express the pain
That was felt on the train
To Auschwitz, tears poured down like rain
Naked face to face
With the master race
Hatred blood of David
My heart belongs to God and stay sacred
Rabbis and priests
Disabled individuals
The poor, the scholars all labeled common
criminals
Mass extermination
Total annihilation
Shipped into the ghetto and prepared for
liquidation
Tortured and starved
Innocent experiments
Stripped down and carved up or gassed to
death
The last hour, I smelled the flowers
Flashbacks of family then sent to the
showers
Powerless undressed
Women with babies clumped tight to their
chest
Crying
Who would've guessed dying
Another life lost
Count the cost
Another body gas burned and tossed in the
holocaust (never again)

[Chorus:]

Never again shall we march like sheep to the
slaughter
Never again leave our sons and daughter
Stripped of our culture
Robbed of our name (never again)
Raped of our freedom and thrown into the
flames (never again)
Forced from our families, taken from our
homes(never again)
Moved from own God and everything we
owned
Never again, never again
Shall we march like sheep to the slaughter
(never again)
Shall we sit and take orders
Stripped of our culture
Robbed of our name (never again)
Raped of our freedom and thrown into the
flames (never again)
Forced from our families, taken from our
homes (never again)
Moved from our God and burned of our
bones
(never again) (never again)

NEVER AGAIN
NEVER AGAIN
The final solution
Is now retribution
Remedy, Wu-Tang

[Man praying in Hebrew]

Shema yisrael ad-onhai elo-hainu ad-onai
echod

*["Hear Oh Israel, the Lord is our God, the
Lord is One"]*

[Gun Shot]

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Remedy: Giving *Never Again* a Hip-Hop Vibe

Name(s): _____

Born Ross Filler in Staten Island, New York, Remedy grew up in a Conservative Jewish family where “we observed, but we didn’t get too crazy.”¹ He has fond memories of Passover at his Aunt Hannah’s, where he “used to love looking for the matzah”² and often tried to slip away from the table in order to avoid reading from the *Haggadah* (a text read during the Passover *seder* or dinner recounting the biblical story of the Exodus).

Despite the anti-Semitism that he experienced growing up, Remedy learned to embrace his Jewish identity. “When I was young and going to school,” Remedy recalls, “knowing I was a Jew—I always felt a little bit leery. Kids would call me Jew, kike, penny-pincher. Now, I’m proud of being a Jew. To be a Jew is good.”³

As an artist, Remedy has made a conscious choice to learn more about his Jewish heritage and to celebrate his identity through music. Through reading about Jewish history, Remedy became fascinated with the Holocaust. “I read and I read,” Remedy once commented. “I watched every movie I could find about it. I couldn’t believe this actually went on and that it happened only a little more than 50 years ago. I couldn’t understand why it happened.”⁴

Remedy learned from his 95-year-old grandmother that members of his own family had perished in the Holocaust. “I was just buggin’ you know?,” Remedy remarked upon his discovery. “I found out my great-uncle was shot in the back and a lot of my family was taken to camps, never to be seen again...Others I know went through the camps still got their wrists numbered. Some of my family made it out, over here to the States, and ran around, slaving, just trying to put food in their mouths.”⁵

Remedy’s discovery of the horrors his family faced led him to write the song, *Never Again*, both as a means to express his personal feelings and a way to ensure that future generations remember the Holocaust long after its survivors are able to bear witness.

“It’s drastic. My blood went through this. I’m gonna let people know, that’s part of me right there...The sad thing is that, soon, everyone who survived won’t be around anymore. There’ll only be people like me carrying on the message. See, they didn’t have Holocaust education when I went to high school. And from the looks of things, what they have now isn’t working. You need a guy like me to reach the kids. Kids learn faster through music than by you sitting there and talking to ‘em.”⁶

¹ Aleza Goldsmith, *Jewish Rapper Takes Chai Road Here ‘to Spread Word’* (Jewish Bulletin of Northern California, December 1, 2001)

² Ibid.

³ *Remedy ‘Jew-Tang Clan’* (Tattoo Jew Magazine, http://members.tripod.com/irish_mac/artical2.html)

⁴ Liel Leibovitz, *The Wu Jew* (The Jewish Week, Inc., December 10, 2004)

⁵ *Remedy ‘Jew-Tang Clan’*

⁶ Ibid.

Never Again begins with the sounds of Jewish men praying—taken from the score of the film, *Schindler's List*—and includes samples of the Israeli national anthem, *Hatikvah*. The refrain includes the powerful lyrics, “Never again shall we march like sheep to the slaughter / Never again shall we sit and take orders / Stripped of our culture / Robbed of our name / Raped of our freedom and thrown into the flames / Forced from our families, taken from our homes / Moved from our God then burned of our bones.” “I cried with every line I wrote,”⁷ Remedy recalls.

Never Again was first released on the Wu-Tang Clan CD, *The Swarm* in 1998. The members of the Wu embraced Remedy’s Jewish identity. “Hip-hop is the voice of the oppressed,” observes Cappadonna, a member of the group. “The Jews suffered, they’ve been through it like the blacks.”⁸

For Remedy, *Never Again* captures the essence of what being a Jewish rapper is about. “If you’re not expressing yourself and your Judaism and your love for your people through your music,” he says, “then you’re really not representing who you are...I also don’t support Jewish rap that mocks Judaism and being Jewish. It’s nothing to joke about or laugh at. I don’t support mocking our own people. I love my people.”⁹

Remedy has performed *Never Again* throughout the world—including Israel and Germany—and across the United States for Holocaust survivors and students in Jewish schools. He regularly tours college campuses, where he works with Hillel and pro-Israel groups to combat anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiment. “I’m here to spread the word—humanity,” he tells audiences. “I happen to be Jewish, but I represent humanity.”¹⁰

Remedy also decided to release his last album in Israel rather than the U.S. “The album will still be available here,” he says. “But I wanted it to be an Israeli hip-hop album to show that there’s such a thing as Jewish hip-hop that’s loud and proud.”¹¹

⁷ Leibovitz, *The Wu Jew*

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Goldsmith, *Jewish Rapper Takes Chai Road*

¹¹ Leibovitz, *The Wu Jew*