

LESSON: Holocaust Literature Guide
STUDENT INTERACTIVE

NAME: _____

PART ONE: BEFORE READING

Book title:	
What do you think this book is about? Base your answer on the title, cover, or blurb on the back cover:	
Genre (examples: memoir, diary, historical fiction):	
Date of original publication:	
Name of author(s):	
Things we have today that people in the book would not have had:	

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DEFINITION OF HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Historical context is the social, religious, economic, and political conditions that existed during a specific time and place. These details of time and place in which a story occurs help us understand, interpret, and analyze books written about the past rather than viewing them through the lens of today's circumstances. Without understanding historical context, a person might interpret past events only based on today's conditions, which could lead to misunderstanding the facts and drawing incorrect conclusions. Historical context gives stories and characters more meaning. It helps us see what motivated people to behave as they did and provides insights into the circumstances that influenced people's actions and decisions. A strong understanding of the story's historical context gives us a better understanding of and appreciation for the narrative.

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PART TWO: DURING READING

- Determine whose point of view the story is based on.
- Look for geography references (cities, countries) and add them to your map
- Note references to historical events or laws and decrees that match those on the [timeline](#)
- Note references to historical events and laws and decrees NOT on the timeline

POINT OF VIEW How does knowing more about what's going on in the world outside of the story broaden your understanding of the author's point of view?	Point of view is what the character or narrator telling the story can see (their perspective). The author chooses "who" is to tell the story by determining the point of view. This viewpoint will give the narrator a partial or whole view of events as they happen	
GEOGRAPHY NOTES (Cities, countries)	List and describe the locations in which the events occur: the names of cities, countries, and any other geographical features that might impact the story (lakes, rivers, oceans, mountains, etc)	

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ILLUSTRATIONS, ART, AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE BOOK (Optional)	List the following: Page number and date. How do illustration, art, and photographs in the book illuminate the events in the book?	
HISTORICAL REFERENCES	List the following: Page number, date, location, what is being referenced. How does this event impact the character?	
HISTORICAL REFERENCES	List the following: Page number, date, location, what is being referenced. How does this impact the character?	

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HISTORICAL REFERENCES	List the following: Page number, date, location, what is being referenced. How does this impact the character?	
Additional References		
Additional References		

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PART THREE: AFTER READING

HISTORICAL FACT CHECKING

Per your teacher's instruction, choose one or all of the historical references you found in the text and check for historical accuracy. Use the [Timeline](#), [The Path to Nazi Genocide](#), and the [Holocaust Encyclopedia](#).

- Name your historical event(s) What discrepancies did you find, if any?
- What could be the reason for discrepancies?
- Note the publication date of the book. How might the date of publication impact historical accuracy?
- What responsibilities does an author have to represent history accurately?

Note: cite your sources.

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- Whose point of view is presented in the book?
- What is unique about this perspective?
- How does the narrator's perspective affect the story?
- Who and what does it (the narrator's perspective) include? Who and what does it exclude?
- How does the narrator help you understand the Holocaust?

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How does geography (places where the story takes place) impact the story told in the book?

How did the historical context provided by the timeline, The Path to Nazi Genocide, and information from the Holocaust Encyclopedia broaden your understanding of this book ?

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Holocaust survivor and author Ruth Klüger wrote in her memoir, “The [Holocaust] involved millions of people; it was a unique experience for each of them.” What unique experience did your book tell? How did it help you understand how and why the Holocaust happened?