

## **Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps**

Comprehension Questions created by Shari Flakus, Lawrence Junior High School

### *Acknowledgements*

1. Who is this story about?

### **Introduction**

2. How did Andrea Warren first learn the truth about the Holocaust?
3. Warren used a provoking question to end the introduction. She leaves the reader with something to ponder. What was her question? What did she mean by this?

### **Chapter 1: Rumors of War, 1939**

4. How was Jack's life similar to yours?
5. Jack's hometown of Gdynia, population 250,000, had a small Jewish population. How did this affect Jack?
6. What did Jack's father do that made Jack proud of him?
7. What happened to Jack's Hebrew teacher?
8. Since Jewish schools were abolished, how did Jack spend his time?
9. Jack's father had to make an important decision regarding his family. What was it?

### **Chapter 2: Occupation**

10. After reading about the separation of Jack's family, what can you predict?
11. Soon after Jack moved to his grandfather's house, the Nazis invaded Poland. Write about three changes the Jews endured under Nazi invasion.
12. Why did Jadzia, Jack's sister, leave her grandfather's home?

### **Chapter 3: A Growing Fear**

13. Where is Jack living now? How was it different from living at his grandfather's home?
14. Jack became an expert at doing what?
15. Jack states, "I lost my fun-loving attitude about life" What troubles did he have that caused him to say this?
16. What big risk did Jack take which ultimately saved his life?
17. What was Jack's plan to survive the war? Hint: Find the Jack's quotation on page 39.

### **Chapter 4: Despair**

18. Write a paragraph describing the "roundup."
19. Jack lied to Jakob, his brother, about what it means to be deported. Why did he do this?
20. According to Jack, what was "the worst moment in (his) life?"

### **Chapter 5: The Right to Die**

21. Why did the Nazis give prisoners a new identity? What was Jack's new identity?

### **Chapter 6: Learning the Rules**

22. Define *kapo*.
23. Aaron said that he was fortunate that he had no children. What did he mean by this?
24. Jack was grateful to Aaron for befriending him. What advice did Aaron give Jack which helped him survive?

25. What are two different philosophies for survival? Which philosophy did Jack choose to follow?

1 –

2 –

Jack's choice:

26. What was baked in the bread that made it taste so terrible?

### **Chapter 7: The Game**

27. Why do you think this chapter is titled “The Game”?

28. Did Jack hate the guards and officers at the camp? Explain the reason for his answer.

29. Aaron believed that a key factor to surviving the camp was having previous experience in a ghetto. This is because the prisoners have already learned to live without what?

30. According to Jack, what were five rules to follow in order to play “the game”?

31. Why was Jack considered lucky to catch the disease, typhus?

### **Chapter 8: Hour by Hour**

32. What jobs was Jack given at Gross-Rosen?

### **Chapter 9: Death's Door**

33. What deadly disease did Jack get?

34. When he was in the sick barracks, he realized he had to get out of there whether he was sick or not. Why?

### **Chapter 10: Moniek**

35. Jack was transferred to another camp where he met Moniek. How was Moniek different than other prisoners?
  
36. What did Moniek find to eat that was considered a treat?

### **Chapter 11: The Miracle**

37. What was the miracle that saved Jack and Moniek's life?
  
38. Even though their lives were on the line, Moniek and Jack helped their friends whenever they could. What did they do?

### **Chapter 12: Liberation**

39. When the boys arrived at Doernhau camp, Moniek was brutally beaten by Hungarian Jews.  
Why was he picked out of the crowd?
  
40. What was ironic about Jack's attitude the night before liberation?
  
41. While in the camps, Jack refused to let himself cry. What happened that caused Jack to cry after all this time?

### **Chapter 13: The Search**

42. Jack and Moniek were the first prisoners to do what?
  
43. What were Jack and Moniek's two main objectives after the war?
  
44. How much did Jack weigh directly after the war?
  
45. Moniek was reunited with what family members?
  
46. Jack was eventually reunited with his uncle Sigmund, who told Jack that his father was dead. What made his death even more difficult to accept?

47. Jack's Aunt Hilda's husband gave Jack a gift. What was it and what was it made from?

48. What happened to Jack's grandfather and to his sister Jadzia?

49. How many relatives did Jack have before the war? After the war? (118)  
Before:                      After:

#### **Chapter 14: Creating a New Life**

50. Describe in one paragraph how Jack thrived after arriving in Kansas City in 1946. Include at least four facts.

51. Salek, a fellow survivor, attributed Jack for saving his life. How did Jack do this?

52. What lesson can be learned from the above question?

53. By 1999, how many times had Jack visited Poland?

54. What are the only two items that Jack has to remember his family by? (123)

55. Jack and Isak Federman co-founded what? (125)

56. Re-read the middle paragraph on page 125, Jack's quote. He makes a profound statement about the Holocaust and why it happened. Respond to this statement in any way you would like.

57. What is Jack's memorial to his family? (126)

58. What are two themes Jack tries to live by? (127)  
1.                                      2.

**John Mandelbaum's Quotation (2 pages after 127)**

59. What was one of the lessons that John, Jack's son learned from his father's story?

**The Concentration Camps**

60. How many concentration camps, both work (prisoner-of-war) camps and (slave-labor) killing camps, were there total? (133)

61. "For Jewish prisoners, all the concentration camps were death camps. The only way a person left them was by dying." What were the five ways prisoners died in the camps? 1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

62. When prisoners arrived at a death camp, they went through the selection process. What was this?

63. What did the Nazis do with the prisoners once they realized that they would lose the war?

64. What percent of Jewish children, Jack being one of them, survived the Holocaust?

65. What was the *Kindertransport*?

66. How many people died during WWII?

67. How many Gypsies were killed?

68. How many people were murdered in the concentration camps?

69. How many Jews were killed?

70. What percentage of the Jewish population of Poland survived?

