

Discussion questions for excerpts from *The Diary of Dawid Sierakowiak*.

1. What does Dawid mean when he says, "Oh, my dear school! Damn the times when I complained about getting up in the morning and about tests. If only I could have them back!" Have you ever had a similar feeling about something?
2. What did school mean in the ghetto?
3. What does going to school represent to Dawid?
4. What do you think Dawid means when he writes, "Humiliation inflicted by force does not humiliate"? Do you agree? Explain.
5. There are also examples of hope and optimism in Dawid's diary entries. Point out an example. Explain where Dawid began to lose hope.

Discussion questions for excerpts from *Zlata's Diary*

1. Find evidence in the entries of Zlata's feelings for those who conduct wars.
2. Find lines that indicate Zlata is losing her innocent, child-like outlook on life.
3. Write down three passages in which Zlata uses similes and metaphors to compare her experiences to concrete objects or ideas. How do these comparisons make her diary entries more vivid to the reader? What do they tell us about Zlata?
4. Look for evidence of Zlata's belief in the universal value and equality of all people. How does this fuel her anger about war?