

Lesson 3: Chapter 2

2 Class Periods

**Reading Skills: Monitoring Comprehension
 Questioning**

Purpose:

Chapter 2 briefly covers many key concepts: Jewish life before the Holocaust, antisemitism, the Nazi rise to power, persecution of Jews and others under Nazi rule, and the Nuremberg Laws. Within the scope of a memoir, the book does a good job giving an overview of important background information and showing how the Blumenthal family was affected by historical events. However, it contains lots of unfamiliar vocabulary. I expected there would be many parts of this chapter that my students would not understand. The chapter also introduces concepts that I would like to develop to a deeper degree.

Materials Needed:

One photocopy of Chapter 2 for each student
Two highlighters of different colors for each student

Process:

Because I predicted that the chapter would pose some comprehension challenges, I selected “monitoring comprehension” as a target skill. I wanted the students to become conscious of which parts of the text they understood and which parts they didn’t. I gave each student a photocopy of the chapter and both a pink and yellow highlighter. I told them that they should mark everything that they understood with pink and everything that confused them in yellow. Every word of the chapter needed to be one color or the other by the time they were finished. They needed to be ready to summarize and explain all of the parts they marked with pink. In addition, I asked them to be aware of the questions that the text prompted them to have and write down at least three of those questions in the margins close to the passage that elicited the question. After explaining the task, the students had about 30 minutes of the first period to work. The students needed 20 - 40 minutes of time during an additional class period to finish. Therefore, plan a non-mandatory activity that the students can work on quietly if they finish before their classmates.

Warning!: After students complete this assignment, you will need to allow yourself time to evaluate their work. Lesson 4 builds on the work done in Lesson 3.