



A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory

Surviving the Holocaust: 1933 – 1945

Student Journal

Section 1

Loyalty

Chapters 1–3

*Your Life is a Gift that is one of a kind.
Love, respect, and hope,
Always keep those three in mind!*

— Ruzia & Leopold Knoblauch



Oskar Knoblauch was a young student very much like you, going to school, playing sports with friends, and dreaming of the future. When the dark cloud of the Nazi regime gained control, his life along with the lives of millions of others were changed forever.

For Oskar. The lessons of love, respect, and perseverance passed down from your parents to you will eternally ignite sparks of hope for generations to come and inspire us to be the best versions of ourselves. On behalf of the thousands of lives you have touched, including my own, thank you.

Hope Chest: Remembering the Holocaust

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Based on *A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory: Surviving the Holocaust 1933–1945* by Oskar Knoblauch.

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This project is funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix.

In-kind printing support generously provided by APS.



Reading

As you read through chapters 1–3, keep in mind the theme, “Loyalty.” Why do you think that loyalty was chosen as a theme? Provide examples from the text.

Vocabulary

Define the following words found in chapters 1–3. Definitions can be interpreted from the text or from a dictionary. Also, list and define one other new word that you learned from this section.

Militia (page 12): _____

Upheaval (page 28): _____

Anti-Semitism (page 19): _____

New Word _____:

Questions: Chapter 1

1. Name three things Oskar mentions in the description of his childhood that may have helped to prepare him for what was to come during World War II.

2. Find examples of how Oskar helps the reader to imagine his childhood using the five senses. Write the sentence and the page number.

See: _____

Hear: _____

Smell: _____

Taste: _____

Touch: _____

3. How was Oskar's childhood similar to yours at this point in the story? Write at least three examples.

Questions: Chapter 2

4. List three examples from the text that demonstrates the spread of the Nazi Party's influence on the German people.

5. How do you think Oskar's parents were feeling about the rise of the Nazi Party? Cite evidence from the text.



From left: sister Ilse, Oskar, cousin Rose, and brother Siegmund. Leipzig, Germany 1930.

Questions: Chapter 3

6. Oskar and his family sought refuge by moving from Leipzig, Germany, to Kraków, Poland. Find Leipzig and Kraków on the map below. Draw a line connecting the two cities to trace Oskar's family's journey.



7. What was Oskar's perspective on his Jewish practice and how it differed from the two other Jewish boys in his class?

8. What is the significance behind Oskar sharing his friend Zbigniew's dreams about the future?

Journal

At the end of Chapter 3, Oskar describes a storm on the horizon. What do you think the significance of this might be to the plot? Write one or two paragraphs.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Critical Thinking Activity

At the end of Chapter 3, Oskar compares the landscape to a melody of Johann Strauss or Antonin Dvořák. While listening to the music clip(s), write or draw what the music makes you think about.