

Section 2

Persevere

Chapters 4–6

*As long as we are together as a family,
that's all that matters!*

— Leopold Knoblauch



Jewish people from the Kraków Ghetto, who have been rounded up for deportation, are crowded onto the back of a truck in 1942. Photo: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Archiwum Państwowe w Krakowie.

Vocabulary

Define the following words found in chapters 4–6. Definitions can be interpreted from the text or from a dictionary. Also, list and define another new word of your choice that you learned from this section.

Annexation (page 31): _____

Persevere (page 48): _____

Gestapo (page 44): _____

Arduous (page 58): _____

New Word _____:

Questions: Chapter 4

1. According to Oskar, as the Nazi regime began to take over surrounding countries, why didn't Jewish people leave Europe?



The Knoblach home in Kraków, Poland.

2. Oskar discusses the poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty titled *The New Colossus*, written by the Jewish American writer Emma Lazarus. One selection states:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to be breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

From your reading, how was this poem relevant to 1939?
How does this poem's meaning pertain to today?



3. Oskar and his family again attempted to escape the Nazi regime by traveling to the Soviet Union. Using the map, draw a line from Kraków to the Soviet Union. Did the Knoblauch family make it to the Soviet Union?





View of the gate at the Kraków Ghetto, circa 1941.
Photo: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Instytut Pamięci Narodowej.

Questions: Chapter 5

4. At the beginning of the chapter, Oskar describes the many ways in which life changed in Poland after Nazi occupation. On page 49, Oskar explains his reaction following a day of being badly mistreated.

My destination was home, and as I walked the very same streets that I walked so many times before in comfort and safety with my friend Zbigniew, I had the sensation that I was being watched and hated, but that day it didn't bother me. I had just passed a test of strength, endurance, and determination. This day, I thought to myself, I did not allow anyone to break my spirit or self-respect! This day was my victory! Tomorrow would be another day, another work detail, and hopefully a good day.

Describe your thoughts about this selection using one of the prompts below:

- This reminds me of...
- This is meaningful to me because...
- This makes me question...

Questions: Chapter 6

5. Oskar describes how Marina worked tirelessly to help his family. Oskar refers to people like Marina as "upstanders." Based on the reading, what could "upstander" be interpreted to mean? Conversely, how would you define the word "bystander"?

Journal

For Oskar and his family, survival required perseverance. Explain what “perseverance” means to you. Describe a time in your life that you had to persevere. What was the outcome? Write at least one or two paragraphs.

[illegible]

Critical Thinking Activity

Oskar's family moved for their protection, leaving many belongings behind. Draw items that are important to you that you would bring in a small suitcase (18 × 13 × 7 inches) on a journey. List the objects and why you chose them.

