A Boy’s Story, A Man’s Memory
Surviving the Holocaust: 1933 – 1945
Student Journal
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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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.
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.

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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): _______________________________________
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_____________________________________
_____________________________________

Upheaval (page 28): _______________________________________
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_____________________________________
_____________________________________

Anti-Semitism (page 19): _______________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
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New Word ________________________________:
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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.

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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: _______________________________________
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_____________________________________

Taste: _______________________________________
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Touch: _______________________________________
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Questions: Chapter 2

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

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

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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?

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________________________________________________________________________

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

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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.

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.
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):

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Persevere (page 48):

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Gestapo (page 44):

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Arduous (page 58):

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New Word ____________________:

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Questions: Chapter 4

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

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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?

[Map showing routes from Kraków to the Soviet Union]

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 5

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”?

Questions: Chapter 6
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.

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.