

FRIEDRICH

LIVING  
LITERATURE  
SERIES

HANS PETER RICHTER

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY KATHY SAMMIS

### SYNOPSIS

A series of episodes chronicles the effects and results of Nazi persecution on Friedrich Schneider and his parents from 1925 through 1942 in Germany, as observed by Friedrich's best friend, an Aryan boy his own age who lives with his family in the same apartment building. Both boys are born in 1925, and they become playmates at the age of four. The anti-Semitism of the German people is indicated early on, as the landlord, Herr Resch, calls Friedrich "dirty Jewboy" and the narrator's grandfather says he does not want his grandson "to associate with this Jew!"

After the boys' first day of school in 1931, Herr and Frau Schneider insist both families go to the amusement park, much to the embarrassment of the narrator's parents, who have very little money because Father has been unemployed for years due to the very difficult economic conditions in Germany. Nevertheless, Father comes up with enough money to have a group photo taken.

In 1933, Friedrich's doctor has the word "Jew" scrawled across his office sign, and a thug wearing a swastika bars the entrance to Mr. Rosenthal's stationery store holding a sign that reads, "Don't buy from Jews." The narrator joins Hitler Youth, which he enjoys; when Friedrich attends a meeting, a Hitler Youth official harangues the boys about the evils of the Jews and teaches them, "The Jews are our affliction!" When the narrator inadvertently breaks a shop window with his rubber ball, the shopkeeper blames Friedrich, "this good-for-nothing Jewboy." Herr Schneider is forced to retire at the age of thirty-two from his civil service job and Herr Resch tries to evict him, both because he is Jewish (a judge prevents the eviction).

In 1934, Friedrich must switch to a Jewish school; on the boy's last day at the non-Jewish school, Teacher Neudorf tells the class the true history of the Jews and their persecution. In 1935, Frau Penk, a cleaning lady, has to stop working for the Schneiders (Herr Schneider now has a good job at a department store) because of a new Nazi law. By 1936, Father has joined the Nazi party, not because he agrees with their anti-Semitic policies (he disagrees) but because it is "of advantage to my family and myself." Thanks to the party, Father finally has a job again, a good position. But he warns Herr Schneider that he should take his family and leave Germany now, while he still can. Herr Schneider declines, believing that the persecution will die down eventually and that meanwhile God intends for the Jews to endure their suffering.

In 1938, Friedrich is treated as less than human at a public swimming pool, and he has his Bar Mitzvah. After school one day, the narrator encounters a crowd attacking a Jewish apprentices' home—it is Kristallnacht. The narrator is swept up in the mob psychology and helps destroy the home, then is sickened when he returns to his family's apartment and listens and watches helplessly as a mob attacks the Schneiders and

destroys their apartment and possessions. Frau Schneider dies from her injuries. By 1939, Herr Schneider is no longer allowed to work; Friedrich repairs lamps in their kitchen to earn money. In 1940, Friedrich is ejected from a theater because Jews are not permitted to go to movies, and he ends a budding romance with an Aryan girl because she would be sent to a concentration camp if she were seen with a Jew.

In 1941, Friedrich and his father shelter in their apartment a rabbi the Nazis are searching for. On a night when Friedrich is staying with friends, the Nazis arrive and arrest Herr Schneider and the rabbi. Friedrich comes home the next morning to find Herr and Frau Resch looting his apartment. The boy disappears. In 1942 he reappears at the narrator's family's door; he is filthy and has been living in a hiding place. He has come to ask for the snapshot of his mother and father taken on that long-ago afternoon at the amusement park; it will be his only remembrance of them and his former life. When air raid sirens begin to wail, the family must go to the shelter. Father tells Friedrich to stay in their apartment. In the middle of the fierce bombing attack, Friedrich comes to the shelter, terrified, and begs the warden, Herr Resch, to let him in. Resch, of course, refuses. The next morning the narrator and his parents, accompanied by the Reschs, return to their building. They find Friedrich sitting on the stoop, dead. "His luck that he died *this way*," says Herr Resch.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hans Peter Richter was born in Cologne (Köln), Germany, in 1928. He completed his military service in the German army when World War II ended, and then studied at a number of German universities, earning diplomas in both sociology and psychology. From 1954 on, he has been an independent socio-psychologist and writer. He married in 1952, and the stories he enjoyed telling his four children led him into one aspect of his career, writing for young people. He is also the author of a number of scientific and technical publications and over a hundred television and radio scripts and the editor of several story collections. In his nontechnical pieces, Richter says, he "can only write about things that I myself have experienced or at least have been a witness to" (*Something About the Author Autobiography Series*, Vol. 11)—as with the events of *Friedrich*. Richter enjoys traveling and is a specialist in French culture. He frequently gives readings of his works.

### CRITICS' CORNER

According to Richter, *Friedrich* was one of only two books dealing with the topic of the events in Germany during Nazism when it was first published in 1960. Over two million copies have now been sold, in a number of languages, and the story has been presented on radio, television, and the stage. *Friedrich* was runner-up for the German Children's Book Prize in 1964 and won the Mildred Batchelder Award from the American

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Library Association in 1972 as the outstanding book originally published in a foreign language. Reporting on the award, *Top of the News* (June 1972) commented, "The author's skill in creating a totally sympathetic character in bewildered Friedrich...makes the theme of the novel...the more impelling." *Horn Book* (April 1971) called the book "unusual," "remarkable," and "disturbing" and praised the use of the "bewildered observer" as narrator and "another kind of victim." The *New York Times Book Review* (10 Jan. 1971) praised the novel as "superb, sensitive, honest and compelling, symbolizing juvenile fiction at its best....a simple but terrifying tale." *Library Journal* (15 May 1971) called the novel "eloquent in its restraint."

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To gain an understanding of the Holocaust
2. To understand the mechanics of persecution and how ordinary people can fail to prevent it from happening
3. To analyze the nature of loyalty and friendship and consider what demands and limits they include
4. To examine the concepts of courage and fear
5. To note the effects of wartime conditions on civilians and examine the issue of civilian casualties of military actions

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To trace the growing and ultimately fatal effects of Nazi persecution of the Jews on Friedrich and his parents
2. To identify the ways in which the narrator and his parents help and fail to help the Schneiders
3. To note the varying reactions of different German civilians to Jews and Nazi persecution of them
4. To analyze the reasons why the civilians in the novel fail to oppose the Nazis
5. To understand why the Schneiders and other Jews fail to leave Germany when they still have the opportunity
6. To apply the lesson of the novel—at that time it was the Jews, it was Friedrich—to a wider context

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each as it relates to the book. Use the page numbers given in parentheses to reread the term in context if you wish.

1. the devaluation of the mark...Hardship and unemployment (p. 2)  
(This refers to the very difficult economic conditions in Germany in the years following World War I. Horrendous inflation destroyed the value of the mark, the German currency. The cure for the inflation, including printing a new currency in which one trillion old marks equaled one new one, brought about high unemployment, as the out-of-work Father demonstrates.)
2. "The boy will go to the railroad. The boy shall have a secure future." (p. 14)  
(Working for the railroad was a civil-service job in Germany at that time, and civil servants could not be fired or laid off if they were not incompetent. Grandfather, as a railroad worker, has kept his job even in these hard economic times, as Father has not, so he intends to have his grandson also become a civil servant working for the railroad, which will guarantee the boy a secure job and an

old-age pension.)

3. swastika (p. 29)  
(A swastika is a Greek cross with the ends of the arms extended at right angles in the same rotary direction. It was the symbol of the Nazis. The thug barring the entrance to the Jewish stationery store wears an armband with a swastika, indicating his allegiance to Hitler and the Nazi party.)
4. Jungvolk (p. 32)  
(This is the Hitler Youth, a Nazi youth organization, which all German Aryan boys were heavily encouraged to join. Members were counseled to spy and report on all enemies of the Nazi party, including their own parents. The narrator is very happy to be a member of Hitler Youth, although what he likes are the uniforms and social/quasimilitary activities, not the anti-Jewish elements.)
5. National Socialist German Workers Party, Nazi party (p. 50)  
(The NSGWP is the Nazi party, the political party of Adolf Hitler that espoused anti-Semitism. Once the Nazis took power in Germany, they began their campaign of persecuting and then eradicating Jews and other ethnic groups. Herr Resch tries to use his membership in the Nazi party as a reason to evict the Schneiders.)
6. rabbi (p. 79)  
(This is the title of a Jewish religious leader and teacher. Friedrich and his father hide a rabbi in their apartment. When the Nazis discover the rabbi there, both the rabbi and Herr Schneider are arrested and taken away.)
7. Bar Mitzvah (p. 84)  
(A bar mitzvah is a solemn ceremony admitting a thirteen-year-old Jewish boy as an adult member of the religious community. To demonstrate that he has successfully completed a course of study in Judaism, the boy reads a section of the Torah, in Hebrew, to the congregation. Teacher Neudorf attends the party celebrating Friedrich's bar mitzvah and presents the boy with a fountain pen.)
8. "There's a war on." (p. 105)  
(It is now 1940, and Germany is in the middle of World War II, which started in September 1939 when Germany declared war on Poland.)
9. concentration camp (p. 108)  
(During World War II, the conquering German Nazis collected Jews from Germany and the countries they occupied and sent them to prison camps, where Jews and other "enemies of the German state" were concentrated and also worked, often to death. Disobeying any of the Nazi laws—for instance, attending a movie if you were Jewish, as Friedrich does—could mean you would be sent to a concentration camp.)
10. air-raid shelter (p. 133)  
(During World War II, the Allies regularly sent squadrons of planes over Germany to bomb strategic targets. Often civilian areas were bombed as well. During these deadly bombing raids, the civilian population had to gather in bomb-proof air raid shelters, as Londoners did during their blitz. Friedrich is killed when Herr Resch refuses to allow him into the shelter during a savage bombing attack.)

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is

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not always a right answer. Your judgment is important, and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

### Literal Level

1. Describe the increasing restrictions placed on Jews by the Nazi government in the course of the novel.  
*(Jewish civil servants are forced to retire, as Herr Schneider is at age thirty-two. Jewish children may attend only Jewish schools. Jews and non-Jews are not allowed to marry; existing marriages between them are dissolved. Non-Jewish women under age thirty-five may not work in the homes of Jews. Jews are not allowed to go to the movies, and they must carry Jewish identification cards. Jews may only sit on park benches marked "For Jews Only," and Jews and Aryans may not date or have sexual relations. Jews must wear a yellow star labeled "Jew" on their clothing. Finally, Friedrich is not allowed in the air raid shelter because he is Jewish.)*
2. In what ways do the narrator and his family help Friedrich and his family?  
*(When a shopkeeper falsely accuses Friedrich of deliberately breaking her shop window so he can rob her, the narrator stands up for his friend and explains that he, not Friedrich, broke the window by accident. Mother calms and comforts Frau Schneider when Herr Schneider is forced to leave his job. From what he has learned as a Nazi party member, Father warns Herr Schneider that he should flee Germany with his family. Mother shares the treasured potatoes with the Schneiders. The narrator keeps the secret of the rabbi who is hiding in the Schneiders' apartment. Just before the air raid, Mother and Father feed Friedrich and give him a hot bath and clean clothes, and they tell him to stay in their apartment during the air raid. Overall, they remain friends with the Schneiders, although as a practical matter, there is little they can do to help in the face of accelerating Nazi persecution.)*
3. What negative reactions and feelings toward Jews do various ordinary Germans show in the novel?  
*(Herr Resch, the landlord, calls little Friedrich a "dirty Jewboy," and later he tries to evict the Schneiders because they are Jewish. Grandfather announces he does not want his grandson to "associate with this Jew!" and declares that the Jews crucified Jesus. The doctor's sign is painted over with the word "Jew" in red, and a man with a swastika bars the entrance to the stationery shop with a sign that reads, "Don't Buy From Jews." The leaders of the Jungvolk teach that "the Jews are our affliction." The female shopkeeper accuses Friedrich as a "good-for-nothing Jewboy," and the police officer says of Jews, "You can't trust them; they're sneaky and they cheat." The swimming pool attendants treat Friedrich and his clothing with disgust when they discover the boy is Jewish. Ordinary citizens turn into a rampaging mob on Kristallnacht, destroying the shops, homes, and belongings of Jews.)*
4. What examples of some compassion for the plight of the Jews do some ordinary German citizens show in the novel?  
*(An old woman ignores the thug and shops at the stationery store in spite of him; people in the crowd support her. The judge protects the Schneiders' rights as tenants.*

*Teacher Neudorf explains to the entire class what the true history of the Jews and their persecution is. Frau Penk is distressed that she must obey the law and stop working for the Schneiders. The usherette at the theater leads Friedrich outside and does not report him for having attempted to see a movie. The Aryan girl Helga is willing to go on seeing Friedrich even though he is a Jew and it is forbidden. The people in the air raid shelter initially urge Resch to let Friedrich stay in the shelter during the bombing raid. All these instances are in addition to what the narrator and his parents do for the Schneiders, as explained above.)*

### Interpretive Level

5. What is the narrator's reaction to the events he is describing?  
*(When he is younger, the narrator is curious and naively interested in the Schneiders' Jewish religious practices. He is also naively enthusiastic about the Hitler Youth in spite of its anti-Jewish teachings, and he accepts his father's membership in the Nazi party as a thing that will help the family. The narrator remains Friedrich's friend throughout, and his parents remain friendly with Friedrich's parents and help them when possible, so we know he does not support the persecution of the Jews. Yet he joins in the destruction of the Jewish apprentices' home, caught up in the exhilaration of the moment; when the mob turns on the Schneiders' apartment, though, the narrator weeps in sorrow. Ultimately, the narrator remains faithful enough to the Schneiders not to reveal that they are hiding a rabbi in their apartment. Like many Germans of the time, the narrator seems to be observing the events with sorrow and unhappiness, but treats the ongoing persecution as something he can do little to stop or moderate. All he can do is attempt to help the Schneiders in a few small ways.)*
6. Why doesn't the Schneider family leave Germany when the persecution of Jews intensifies?  
*(Herr Schneider says that he, his wife, and his son are German. Where else would they go, and how well would they be received anywhere else? "And anyway, it will all quiet down eventually," he adds. Prejudice against Jews has been a fact of life in Europe for centuries, he says, and since this is no longer the Middle Ages, there's no reason to think today's prejudice would be life-threatening, as it once was. Since the opponent this time is the government rather than ordinary people, Herr Schneider feels the Jews will simply be legally mistreated, not murdered by mobs. Furthermore, if the Jews accept this latest suffering, perhaps God will end their long exile and allow them to return to their Promised Land.)*
7. Why does the narrator's father join the Nazi party? How does he feel about it?  
*(As he explains to Herr Schneider, Father joins the Nazi party because he feels it will be "of advantage to my family and myself." Father had been out of work for a long time—from at least 1925 until 1936—and when he joined the party, he finally got work again. Not only is it better work than he had ever hoped for, but also the family can now go on vacation trips, and he has been offered another, even better position. However, Father does not agree with all of the party's positions, and he is clearly embarrassed to have to tell Herr Schneider that he has become a party*

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member. While Father is not an ideologically committed Nazi—he continues to be friends with the Schneiders—he also doesn't wish to do anything that would repudiate the party or his membership in it, urging Mother not to show too much sorrow about Friedrich: "You'll endanger us all otherwise."

8. How does the relationship between Friedrich and the narrator change during the course of the novel?

(At first, Friedrich is economically advantaged over the narrator; his father has a secure civil-service job and the Schneiders have money to spend on leisure activities, while the narrator's father is out of work and the family is correspondingly poor. Still, the boys are best friends on a democratic basis. As the persecution of the Jews begins and increases, a social distance grows between the boys because they can no longer attend the same school, and Friedrich cannot take part in the Jungvolk that is such an important part of the narrator's life. After the narrator is reprimanded in the Hitler Youth for consorting with a Jew, the friends have to meet in public only in places where they are unlikely to encounter anyone they know. Ultimately, a great practical rift divides the friends, as the narrator continues a mostly normal life with his parents while Friedrich lives as a fugitive on the streets in a secret hiding place.)

### Critical Level

9. Not all Germans in the novel seem to hate Jews. Why do they allow the persecution of the Jews to go on?  
(Answers will vary somewhat. The non-Jew-hating Germans seem to be very afraid of their government and the consequences of opposing any of the anti-Jewish laws or activities. Some, like the narrator's father, are anxious to keep their jobs; others, like Frau Penk, fear public humiliation or imprisonment. The consequences of flouting the law can be serious indeed; Friedrich fears that Helga will be sent to a concentration camp if she is seen with him.)
10. This is a "documentary," "first-person," and "episodic" novel. Explain what each of these terms means in relation to the novel.  
(*"Documentary"* means this novel concerns real, historical events, even though the characters in the novel are fictional. *"First-person"* means that the novel is told in the first-person, "I" voice, by a character who witnessed or was part of the events that are being described. *"Episodic"* means that the novel is told as a series of events, or episodes, each complete within itself but all joined by a common thread of experience.)
11. The original, German title of the novel (translated into English) is *At That Time It Was Friedrich*. What does that title mean? Where in the novel is this theme explicitly stated?  
(The author intended to state through the title that he is describing the process of singling out some particular group of people for persecution. In this case, he is describing the Nazi persecution of the Jews—at that time, in the 1930's, it was Friedrich and his fellow European Jews who were being persecuted. At other times, in the past and in the future, it has been and will be other groups of people. This theme is explicitly stated by the judge who rejects Herr Resch's reasons for trying to evict the Schneiders: "If I

accede to your claim today, you may stand before me in a year or two and demand a verdict against another tenant because he is a Catholic or doesn't eat meat.")

### Creative Level

(Answers will vary.)

12. Putting yourself in Friedrich's shoes, write a series of diary entries for him describing some of the novel's events from his point of view.
13. Suppose Herr Schneider had been arrested by the Nazis and had disappeared, and Father had to keep his promise to look after Frau Schneider and Friedrich. What would have happened?
14. What if the romance between Friedrich and Helga had continued?

## ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

### Science

1. Friedrich repairs lamps to earn money. Learn how to do this yourself, and demonstrate the technique to the class. (Caution: Learn and work under adult supervision to avoid electrical shocks.)
2. Friedrich entrances the narrator when both are very young boys with a cuckoo whistle made out of "a bit of twig." Create a whistle yourself out of a tree branch.
3. Find out about the old methods of photography as described on page 24 of the novel. How are modern methods different?

### Social Studies

1. Describe in detail the Jewish Sabbath Friday evening ceremony.
2. Prepare a written or oral report on the economic conditions in Germany during the 1920's.
3. Read more about the activities of the Hitler Youth. If you had been a young person in Germany at that time, would you have joined?
4. Prepare a written or oral history of the Jewish people in Europe.
5. Read first-person accounts of Jewish people who lived through *Kristallnacht*.
6. Assemble a class display of the results of World War II bombing raids on Germany.

### Art

1. Draw a floor plan of the apartment building where the narrator and Friedrich and their families lived.
2. Create a color portrait of Polycarp.

### Home Economics

1. With classmates, prepare a meal of potato pancakes.
2. Arrange for a class sampling of knockwurst and other types of German sausage.

### Math

1. Find the current exchange rate for the German mark, and then calculate the cost in marks of many items you commonly buy, like a hamburger, a cassette, a movie ticket, and so on.
2. Make a chart illustrating the hyperinflation in Germany during the 1920's.

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3. Calculate Friedrich's age when each of these scenes occurs: building the snowman; the visit to the amusement park; Herr Schneider's forced retirement; Friedrich's last day of non-Jewish school; the swimming pool incident; Frau Schneider's death; Friedrich's brief romance with Helga; Herr Schneider's arrest; Friedrich's death.

### Language Arts

1. The special delegate who addresses the Hitler Youth meeting is a riveting public speaker. Compose and deliver a speech yourself in which you are trying to convince your audience that something that isn't so, is.
2. Read *The Time of the Young Soldiers*, also by Hans Peter Richter. In a small group, discuss—in the author's words—"how inwardly I more and more abandoned my decency, my inner values," as depicted in the book and as it can happen to other people.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Prepare for a class discussion on how and why the people of Germany could have allowed the Nazi persecution and then annihilation of the Jews to take place.
2. In a small group, discuss what you think you would do faced with the narrator's dilemma: Should he help the Schneiders keep the rabbi hidden even though this would put his own family in grave danger?
3. The German version of *Friedrich* contained an epigraph explaining that "at that time [Nazi Germany in the 1930's and 1940's], the Jews were it." Who has been "it" since then? Who would you say is "it" today? Who might be "it" tomorrow?
4. Role-play Jewish family members debating whether or not to leave Nazi Germany (when that was still possible). One or more of you should cite Herr Schneider's stated reasons (and others) for not leaving, and another or others should offer counterarguments.
5. With classmates, act out some scenes from the novel. You can improvise and extend the scenes as you wish.

### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Transpose the Chronology at the end of the novel into a timeline. Then add the events from each chapter of the novel to the timeline, indicating Friedrich's age at each event.
2. Trace the events of the novel through the ways in which the narrator and his family help Friedrich and his parents.
3. Make a list of the characters who interact with Friedrich and his parents, and describe the effect each of these characters has on the Schneiders.

### OTHER BOOKS BY HANS PETER RICHTER

(For young readers, published in English translation)

*Uncle and His Merry-Go-Round* (1959)

*Hengist the Horse* (1960)

*I Was There* (1971)

*The Time of the Young Soldiers* (1975)

### RELATED READING

*Along the Tracks*. Tamar Bergman.

*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*. Anne Frank.

*Gideon: A Novel*. Chester Aaron.

*Hitler's War Against the Jews*. David A. Altshuler.

*The Island on Bird Street*. Uri Orlev.

*Night*. Elie Wiesel.

*Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust*. Barbara Rogasky.

*Touch Wood: A Girlhood in Occupied France*. Renée Roth-Hano.

*The Upstairs Room*. Johanna Reiss.

*We Remember the Holocaust*. David Adler.

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De Montreville, Doris, and Elizabeth D. Crawford, eds. *Fourth Book of Junior Authors and Illustrators*. New York: H.H. Wilson, 1978.

*The Horn Book Magazine*, April 1971, pp. 173-74.

*Something About the Author*, Vol. 6. Detroit: Gale, 1974.

*Something About the Author Autobiography Series*, Vol. 11. Detroit: Gale, 1991.

*Top of the News*, June 1972, p. 365.

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VOCABULARY TEST

Match each underlined word with its meaning listed below. Write the letter of the meaning in the space next to the sentence number.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. His house was Herr Resch's seat of government—salesmen and tenants were his subordinates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. "Mother," I implored, "Frau Schneider is now in the snow, too. Do please let's go down."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mother sighed. "Don't pester me, boy," she said.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Here Father interjected, "But not the Schneiders!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "Who was that?" Grandfather asked imperiously.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Herr Schneider treated everyone to a long knockwurst with mustard and a roll.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Sometimes we made fun of the old man and his goat's voice. But he never took this amiss.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The white embroidered victory rune, ⚡, sign of the *Jungvolk*,...
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. ...looked resplendent in the center of the black pennant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. On the wall, a platoon leader had tried his hand at maxims in watercolor. "Be more than you seem!" and "Fight for your Life!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. "The Jews are our affliction."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The attorney stepped back, let go of his robe and pointed an admonishing index finger at the courtroom ceiling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. "If I accede to your claim today, you may stand before me in a year or two and demand a verdict against another tenant because he is a Catholic or doesn't eat meat."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Like a dancer Friedrich pirouetted before me, showing off.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Reproachfully, the usherette said, "You must be tired of life! You must be dying to go a concentration camp, eh!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Friedrich gave a speech, just like a grown-up orator.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The Pogrom (1938)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. We stood in the hall, vacillating.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Friedrich leaped to my side. "I can vouch for him!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. We could even hear the whistling sound of the falling bombs and the rushing sound of the incendiary bombs.

a. anno  
b. massacre  
c. sausage  
d. begged  
e. burning  
f. wrongly  
g. warning

h. cause of suffering  
i. put in between  
j. whirled around  
k. hesitating  
l. splendid  
m. support  
n. agree

o. public speaker  
p. alphabet symbol  
q. arrogantly  
r. with blame  
s. inferiors  
t. sayings

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**COMPREHENSION TEST A**

**Part I: Matching (20 points)**

Read each character description. In the list below, find the character who matches the description. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the description number.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. the narrator   | f. Herr Resch     |
| b. Father         | g. Helga          |
| c. Mother         | h. Polycarp       |
| d. Friedrich      | i. Grandfather    |
| e. Herr Schneider | j. Frau Schneider |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. He wore green trousers, a red waistcoat, and a blue peaked cap.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A gentleman in a black frock coat and gray-striped trousers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Cries about the terrible things that happen to Friedrich and his family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Dies when a mob attacks his/her home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Has very small feet and black hair; works in a kindergarten.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Joins the Jungvolk and enjoys it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Is out of work for years until he joins the Nazi party.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Works for the railroad and travels a lot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Coat, trousers, and jacket are encrusted with dirt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. A district manager, he rules, and lets everyone feel it.

**Part II: Fill-In (30 points)**

Write one or two words in each blank to make each statement true.

- 1. The events of the novel take place in the country of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Jews must wear a \_\_\_\_\_ on each item of their clothing.
- 3. The landlord's name is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. At the end of the first day of school, the Schneiders insist the two families must go to the \_\_\_\_\_ to have fun.
- 5. The landlord tries to use his membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ party as a reason to evict the Schneiders.
- 6. Helga could be sent to a \_\_\_\_\_ for dating Friedrich.
- 7. Friedrich's teacher gives the boy a \_\_\_\_\_ as a gift at his bar mitzvah.
- 8. At his bar mitzvah, Friedrich reads aloud from the Torah in the \_\_\_\_\_ language.
- 9. The narrator and his parents spend the last night of the novel in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ shelter.
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ is arrested for sheltering a fugitive.
- 11. Friedrich comes back to the apartment building to get a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. The Nazi party teaches that \_\_\_\_\_ are evil people.
- 13. Friedrich earns money by repairing \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14. Friedrich could be arrested for attending the \_\_\_\_\_ *Sweet Jew*.
- 15. Friedrich must leave his regular school and attend the \_\_\_\_\_ school instead.





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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each quotation. In the list below, find the character who speaks the words. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the quotation number.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. the narrator   | f. Herr Neudorf   |
| b. Father         | g. Herr Resch     |
| c. Mother         | h. Helga          |
| d. Friedrich      | i. Grandfather    |
| e. Herr Schneider | j. Frau Schneider |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. "I do not want the boy to associate with this Jew!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. "I'd love to take part, but Father won't let me join the Jungvolk."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. "Times have changed. Now I cannot tolerate a Jew in my house!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. "They forced him to retire....We are Jews, aren't we?"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "Well, Fritschen! You look like a little Jew!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. "We'll meet again next Sunday. We'll go to the country where there are real woods, where they don't have yellow benches!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. "I have become a member of the NSDAP because I believe it's of advantage to my family and myself."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. "Our freedom may be curtailed and we may be treated unfairly, but at least we don't have to fear that the people will murder us pitilessly."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. "If today, or tomorrow, you should see Jews being mistreated, reflect on one thing—Jews are human beings, human beings like us!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. "I threw the ball, I broke your window."

Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

Write a one- or two-word answer for each of the following questions.

1. What is the name of the garden dwarf? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What war is Germany fighting at the end of the novel? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What fugitive do Friedrich and his father give shelter to? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who helps support the narrator's family while Father is out of work? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who protects the Schneiders' rights as tenants and does not allow their eviction? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the name of the Jungvolk in English? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the common name of the political party that Father joins? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where would Friedrich be sent if he were caught in a movie theater? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who comes to Friedrich's bar mitzvah to present him with a special gift of a fountain pen? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What kills Friedrich? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who is killed by a mob attack? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Who forces Friedrich out of the shelter? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What job is Frau Penk no longer allowed to perform for the Schneiders? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Who tells Herr Schneider that he should take his family and leave Germany? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What is the last part of the novel, the listing by date of events in Germany during the 1930's, called?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FRIEDRICH

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

In the spaces provided, write T if the statement is completely true, or write F if any part of the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Father loses his job with the post office because he is Jewish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Friedrich and the narrator attend high school together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Friedrich is sometimes called a Jewboy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mother dislikes the Schneiders and wishes her son would stay away from Friedrich.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The narrator enjoys being a member of the Jungvolk.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. German Jews are forbidden to practice their religion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Herr Schneider is arrested and taken away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The German Jews are ordered to wear yellow stars on their clothing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Herr Schneider gets a new job at a department store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The narrator helps the mob destroy the Schneiders' apartment and possessions.

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose any three to answer. Write a paragraph for each.

1. Write a character description of Mother. How does she feel about Friedrich and his family?
  
2. Describe four minor characters in the novel and tell how each affects Friedrich and his parents.
  
3. Compare Friedrich's teenage years with the narrator's teenage years.
  
4. Why does the narrator join the Jungvolk? Why would Friedrich want to?

**FRIEDRICH**

**ANSWER KEY**

**Vocabulary Test**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 1. s  | 11. h |
| 2. d  | 12. g |
| 3. a  | 13. n |
| 4. i  | 14. j |
| 5. q  | 15. r |
| 6. c  | 16. o |
| 7. f  | 17. b |
| 8. p  | 18. k |
| 9. l  | 19. m |
| 10. t | 20. e |

**Comprehension Test A**

**Part I: Matching (20 points)**

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. h | 6. a  |
| 2. e | 7. b  |
| 3. c | 8. i  |
| 4. j | 9. d  |
| 5. g | 10. f |

**Part II: Fill-In (30 points)**

- Germany
- yellow star
- Herr Resch
- amusement park
- Nazi
- concentration camp
- fountain pen
- Hebrew
- air raid
- Her Schneider
- photograph (snapshot)
- Jews
- lamps
- movie
- Jewish

**Part III: True/False (20 points)**

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T  |
| 2. T | 7. T  |
| 3. F | 8. F  |
| 4. T | 9. F  |
| 5. F | 10. F |

**Part IV: Essay (30 points)**

Answers will vary.

**Comprehension Test B**

**Part I: Matching (20 points)**

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. i | 6. h  |
| 2. d | 7. b  |
| 3. g | 8. e  |
| 4. j | 9. f  |
| 5. c | 10. a |

**Part II: Short Answer (30 points)**

- Polycarp
- World War II
- rabbi
- Grandfather
- judge
- Hitler Youth
- Nazi
- concentration camp
- Friedrich's teacher (Herr Neudorf)
- air raid (bombs)
- Frau Schneider
- Herr Resch
- cleaning
- Father
- Chronology

**Part III: True/False (20 points)**

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F  |
| 2. F | 7. T  |
| 3. T | 8. T  |
| 4. F | 9. T  |
| 5. T | 10. F |

**Part IV: Essay (30 points)**

Answers will vary.



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