

THE HIDING PLACE

CORRIE TEN BOOM

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

HISTORICAL TIME LINE

These events serve as background to the autobiography:

1837

January The ten Boom watch shop opens.

1892

April 15 Corrie ten Boom is born in Bloemendaal, Netherlands.

1918 World War I ends.

1927 Willem ten Boom writes his doctoral thesis in Germany about the rise of Nazism.

1933

January 30 Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.

March 23 Hitler assumes the role of dictator and withdraws Germany from the League of Nations. Jewish civil workers lose their jobs.

1935 Nuremberg Laws deprive Jews of citizenship and forbid intermarriage between Jews and gentiles.

1936

October Germany allies with Italy.

1938

November 9 Kristall Nacht (literally, "Crystal Night" or the Night of Broken Glass), a Nazi pogrom against German Jews results in the destruction of 7500 Jewish-owned stores and synagogues and widespread emigration of Jews.

1939

March Hitler controls Austria and Czechoslovakia.

August 29 Germany and the U.S.S.R. sign a ten-year nonaggression pact.

September World War II begins after Germany invades Poland.

1940

April Hitler conquers Norway, Denmark, and Belgium.

May 10 Germany invades Holland.

May 13 Queen Wilhelmina flees to London.

May 14 Holland capitulates to the Nazis.

June 22 Hitler controls France.

1941

February Nazis begin rounding up Jews in Amsterdam.

June 22 Hitler attacks Russia.

October 15 Jews are declared outlaws.

November Weil's Furriers is raided by German troops.

December 7 Hitler declares war on the United States after his ally, Japan, bombs Pearl Harbor.

1942

April Germany imports a total of 200,000 Dutch as slave labor in war industries.

April 4 All Jews in Holland are forced to wear a yellow star on the left outer portion of their clothing.

May 10 Peter plays the "Wilhelmus" at the Dutch Reformed Church in Velsen.

May 13 Peter is arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the federal prison in Amsterdam.

June 30 Jews in Holland must observe stringent rules: an 8 P.M. to 6 A.M. curfew, no sitting on public conveyances, no use of public telephones or parks, limited access to medicine and markets, and prohibition from certain sections of town.

July 1 Fred Koonstra delivers stolen ration cards to the Beje.

December Germany executes a total of 2,200 Dutch.

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1943

April 22 Cato de Vries arrives alone at the Beje after Harry's arrest.

April 29 Holland is placed under martial law.

June 1 A refugee woman and newborn baby arrive at the Beje.

July Mussolini's government collapses.

1944

February 28 Corrie, Betsie, and Casper ten Boom are arrested.

February 29 The prisoners are taken to Scheveningen, the federal penitentiary at The Hague.

March 9 Casper ten Boom dies in a hallway in the hospital of The Hague.

March 16 Corrie enters solitary confinement.

April 15 Corrie celebrates her 53rd birthday in jail.

June 6 The Allies invade Normandy at dawn.

July 20 Col. Claus von Stauffenberg fails to carry out the assassination of Hitler.

September 2 Prisoners at Scheveningen Prison are evacuated.

September 3 The Allies drive the Nazis out of Holland.

September 7 Corrie arrives at Ravensbruck Prison in Germany.

November Corrie and Betsie begin doing road work.

December 18 Betsie is stricken with paralysis.

December 19 Betsie ten Boom dies.

December 22 Corrie receives a certificate of discharge, but is sent to the hospital because of swollen legs.

1945

January 1 Corrie is released from Ravensbruck.

January 11 Corrie is reunited with Willem.

January 25 Corrie returns to Haarlem.

spring Mrs. Bierens de Haan offers her home to war victims.

April 30 Hitler and Eva Braun commit suicide in a bunker in Berlin.

May 7 Germany surrenders to the Western Allies at Rheims.

May 14 The Allies retake Holland.

December 13 Eleven war criminals convicted of atrocities at Belsen and Auschwitz are hanged at Hameln.

1946 Corrie and a committee of the German Lutheran Church open a camp in Darmstadt.

December Willem ten Boom dies of tuberculosis of the spine.

1947 Indonesian Dutch prisoners of the Japanese arrive at Bloemendaal.

1959 Corrie revisits Ravensbruck.

1971 *The Hiding Place* is published.

1975 *The Hiding Place* is made into a film.

1983

April 15 Corrie ten Boom dies on her birthday in Placentia, California.

SYNOPSIS

Secure in the ten Boom family's strong religious faith, life at the Beje is pleasant, but demanding for Corrie. In 1937, at the age of 45, she takes charge of Casper, her 77-year-old father. With the aid of 52-year-old Betsie, who suffers from anemia, Corrie helps celebrate the one hundredth birthday of their shop. Most influential in shaping Corrie's view of the world is the counsel of her older brother Willem, a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church. With his help, Corrie begins taking an active role in the rescue and resettlement of an increasing stream of Jewish refugees who flee the growing menace of Nazi Germany.

Times grow increasingly difficult after Holland's Queen leaves the neutral country, which is forced to surrender to the Nazis. Hardships of curfew and rationing inhibit the work of Willem's underground, but Corrie and other assistants risk discovery and pedal their bikes to meetings where fellow rescuers take the name of Smit to lessen the chances of arrest. Hiding places become scarce as Jewish neighbors begin to disappear from Haarlem. In 1942, two years after the fall of Holland, Corrie commits her family to a regular program of hiding refugees in the secret room built behind her bed by a sympathetic architect. To provide the necessary food, Corrie uses stolen ration cards, which are delivered by Fred Koornstra, who poses as a meter reader.

To protect their operation, the family resorts to secrecy, regular drills, a hidden buzzer, and a window signal, but are betrayed by Jan Vogel, a Dutch informer. In bed with flu on the morning of February 28, 1944, Corrie and her sister Betsie are arrested along with their aged father. Corrie is identified as a ring leader. The Gestapo discover their hidden radio, but fail to locate the false wall that secretes the hidden Jews. With the aid of Rolf, a sympathetic police officer, Corrie manages to

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shred and flush away incriminating papers.

At the first hearing, Casper ten Boom speaks out for the family's ministry to "any man in need who knocks." He and his daughters are imprisoned separately. The old man fails to survive the first ten days of incarceration and dies in the hallway of The Hague. At Scheveningen, Betsie and Corrie communicate whenever possible. Prison is made bearable by smuggled amenities—bars of soap, safety pins, and the four Gospels of a Bible. To sustain her boredom in solitary confinement, Corrie befriends an ant.

Messages bring hope. Relatives and friends are released. A package containing a sweater, cookies, vitamins, needle and thread, and towel arrive from home. Beneath the stamp on the package is a concealed sentence—the Jews left behind during the raid on the Beje are safe. Lieutenant Rahms, Corrie's interrogator, responds to her evangelism and reunites her with her family for the reading of Casper's will.

As the Allies bring pressure against the Nazis, Corrie and Betsie are evacuated by train south to Vught near Brabant. Because of her background as a watchmaker, Corrie assembles radio parts at the Phillips factory. Once more transported in a group of 80 women aboard a single waste-fouled rail car, Corrie and Betsie are imprisoned in Ravensbruck, Germany. Filth, lice, and near-starvation fail to dim Betsie's attempts to bring hope to Barracks 8. The sisters plod to grueling eleven-hour work details at the Siemens factory, where they unload metal plates from a boxcar. As winter sets in, the Siemens factory closes and Betsie and Corrie are assigned to road work near the camp wall.

Physical signs point to Betsie's diminished strength and failing health. First she coughs up blood and then develops fever. A week before Christmas, Betsie suffers paralysis in her limbs. Corrie finds a way to visit her sister. Betsie dies in the camp infirmary. Corrie, near the time of discharge for her crime of stealing ration cards, goes to the hospital until the swelling in her legs recedes. After Christmas, her legs returned to normal, Corrie is fitted out in decent clothes and signs release papers stating that her treatment at Ravensbruck has been good.

On New Year's Day, 1945, she travels by train toward home. Her bread and ration coupons stolen, Corrie wanders fitfully from station to station. At Groningen a kind nurse recognizes the symptoms of malnutrition, feeds Corrie, and treats her to a hot bath and bed with sheets. After ten days of recuperation, Corrie telephones Willem. Aboard a food truck, she travels illegally to a rendezvous with her family.

As life returns to normal, Corrie misses her sister and shoulders the tasks Betsie began in prison—turning hate into love. With the aid of Mrs. Bierens de Haan, she opens a center for war victims in a 56-room mansion in Bloemendaal. Work in the surroundings gardens assuages the mental torment of the inmates. Corrie, absorbed in her mission, donates the Beje to the most

despised of the war victims—members of the NSB or Dutch collaborators. Eventually she sees signs of their repatriation among vengeful countrymen.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in Bloemendaal, Holland, to clockmaker Casper ten Boom, Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983) lived half her life quietly keeping the books and making repairs in her father's watch repair shop in Haarlem. Surrounded by two sisters, a brother, three aunts, and numerous nieces and nephews, she felt strong family support even after her mother's death from cerebral hemorrhage. Through the bleak 1930's, Corrie was bolstered by Casper ten Boom's enduring Christian faith and faced the coming of Nazism with hope and courage.

In 1940, Corrie ten Boom's simple spinster's life was complicated by the onrush of Jews with no place to hide from German persecution. Gradually she turned their rambling old three-storied house and shop into a shelter and saved over 700 lives. Imprisoned in 1944 for stealing ration cards, she survived Ravensbruck, a notorious death camp, and was released shortly before she was to have been executed.

Corrie ten Boom's post-war activities include the establishment of a refuge for Dutch war victims at Darmstadt and years of touring the world to spread her evangelistic message. Among her numerous books are her bestseller, *The Hiding Place* (1971), *A Prisoner and Yet* (1954), *Amazing Love* (1959), *Plenty for Everyone* (1967), *Tramp for the Lord* (1974), *Corrie ten Boom's Prison Letters* (1975), *In My Father's House* (1976), and *This Day is the Lord's* (1979).

The founder of Christians, Incorporated, she supported missions with the proceeds of her works. Her travels took her to oppressed peoples in Cuba, Africa, and the Communist bloc. Her personal outreach consisted of the adoption of Do Van Nguyen. After a heart ailment and several strokes slowed her flurry of evangelistic activities, she settled with friends in Placentia, California, where she died at the age of 91.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Corrie ten Boom wrote her autobiography and most important work with the aid of John and Elizabeth Sherrill, both editors for *Guideposts* magazine. The work was the basis for the movie of the same name, adapted by Allan Sloane and Lawrence Holben for Wide World Pictures in 1975. The movie starred Julie Harris, Eileen Heckart, Arthur O'Connell, and Jeannette Clift as Corrie.

Surprisingly, Corrie ten Boom vita contains no outpouring of accolades or honorary doctorates. The real test of her message lies in the number of readers who still turn to her autobiography for an account of Holland's struggle against Nazi tyranny.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To note the historical and geographical background of the story

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2. To discuss the effects of imprisonment and deprivation
3. To explain the philosophy which undergirds Christian evangelism
4. To point out conflicts that develop after the war
5. To comment on the theme of forgiveness as a method of healing
6. To consider the theme of kindness throughout the story
7. To explain the symbolic importance of the "Wilhelmus"
8. To discuss the importance of strong community values
9. To examine the importance of autobiography

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To account for Corrie's reliance on Betsie
2. To discuss the value of Caspar ten Boom as an example of Christian virtue
3. To describe losses that bring strength to the ten Booms
4. To enumerate and discuss signs, dreams, and miracles in Corrie's life
5. To evaluate the importance of family support in Corrie's decision to help the Jews
6. To describe methods by which Corrie tricks and evades the authorities
7. To comment on the importance of minor characters, including Fred, Peter, Willem, Rolf, Pickwick, Mrs. Bierens, Otto, and Lieutenant Rahms
8. To contrast the two halves of Corrie's life

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the autobiography. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. To the big brick house in Haarlem where Pickwick served real coffee in the middle of the war....(Preface, p.viii)
(Haarlem, Holland's fifth-largest city, is the capital of North Holland. Only 4½ miles from the North Sea, it borders the Spaarne River. The city, a balanced blend of industry and trade, is noted for its production of tulip bulbs, which Corrie comments on p. 234 were absent after the war because people used the bulbs for food. New York City, settled in part by Dutch immigrants, contains a borough named Harlem after the Dutch city.)

2. They stopped him on a streetcorner--teen-aged boys in Munich--set fire to his beard. (Chapter 1, p. 15)
(Hitler, during his rise to power, surrounded himself by a coterie of thugs, misfits, psychopaths, and criminals. One of his most effective intelligence-gathering operations was headed by his Hitler Youth, composed of gangs of delinquents who terrorized innocent people with acts of hooliganism and more serious violence. On page 57, Otto takes pride in his membership in the Hitler Youth.)
3. What did he make of the news that President Wilson was sending American troops to France? (Chapter 3, p. 44)

(At first, President Woodrow Wilson declared American neutrality from World War I, which broke out in August, 1914. Because of trade agreements with England and France, American commercial shipping was menaced by German saboteurs. The sinking of the British liner Lusitania and the killing of over 100 American passengers in May, 1915, caused Wilson to deliver an ultimatum. Two more incidents of torpedoed vessels caused Wilson to teeter on the brink of war.

After Wilson's reelection in 1916, the Germans put his philosophy to the test and declared unlimited warfare against all sea trade--from both enemy and neutral countries. Pushed beyond his limit from neutrality, Wilson urged Congress to declare war to "make the world safe for democracy." The resolution was adopted on April 6, 1917.)

4. A few nights later the radio carried the news we dreaded: the Queen had left. (Chapter 5, pp. 63-64)
(Queen Wilhelmina, who came to the Dutch throne in 1890, maintained a strained neutrality throughout World War I while offering as much aid as she could to Belgian war victims. Holland's economic development burgeoned after the war, but came to a halt with the invasion of Nazi troops on May 10, 1940. Dutch forces abandoned the indefensible northern stretches and attempted to defend the west. Within three days, the German Air Force trounced their meager efforts.
The Queen and her children escaped to London, where Wilhelmina set up a provisional government. Princess Juliana and her family moved to Canada. During the war years, Wilhelmina visited Canada and the U.S. after her return in 1945, she ruled until 1948, when she abdicated in favor of her daughter, Juliana. After the 1940's, Holland abandoned neutrality and followed a course of alliance with Luxembourg, Belgium, France, and England.)
5. The National Socialist Bond, the quisling organization of Holland, grew larger and bolder with each month of occupation. (Chapter 5, p. 67)

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(One of the most disconcerting repercussions of enemy occupation was the danger of Dutch citizens who cooperated with the German high command. Through their efforts, thousands of Dutch citizens were arrested; many were executed or shot on sight.)

The term quisling was created from the last name of Vidkun Abraham Quisling, a Norwegian military leader and politician who supported the Nazis. Aiding the German invasion of Norway, Quisling rose to the position of head of state until the collapse of Nazi Germany in 1945. Quisling was brought to trial and shot for complicity with the enemy.)

6. I pity the poor Germans, Corrie. They have touched the apple of God's eye. (Chapter 5, p. 69)

(Casper, observing the brutal apprehension of Jews, all of whom wear a yellow star, recalls the words of Deuteronomy 7: 6 in which Jehovah proclaims: "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God; the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.")

Later, on p. 101, Meyer Mossel meets Casper ten Boom and is inspired by his long white beard to call him "One of the Patriarchs!" Casper, taking the epithet as a compliment, notes, "a brother of the Chosen People!"

7. My wife too—although she is a Gentile—is in danger because of her marriage. (Chapter 5, p. 72)

(Harry de Vries, who poisons his bulldogs in order to save them from subsequent starvation, reveals his fears for himself and his wife. Cato de Vries, although not a Jew, may be endangered by marriage to Harry.)

8. "A completed Jew!" he would tell us smilingly. "A follower of the one perfect Jew." (Chapter 5, p. 73)

(Jews are targeted by Germans regardless of whether they practice the Hebrew faith. Harry de Vries, who has accepted Christianity, refers to Jesus, who was born a Jew and who Christians believe is the long-awaited Messiah, foretold in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah.)

9. After two years, rich, black, pungent Dutch coffee. (Chapter 6, p. 84)

(Dutch colonies in Guiana are major coffee producers.)

10. From a pocket came a small prayer cap, and then, from deep in his throat, half-sung, half-pleaded, came the words of the ancient prophet, so feelingly and achingly that we seemed to hear the cry of the Exile itself. (Chapter 6, p. 102)

(Meyer Mossel, encouraged to share the ten Boom worship period, is honored to read from Jeremiah. The emotion he exudes with his reading calls to

mind the exile of the Hebrews from Egypt through the wilderness. Like the sufferings of Jews under the Germans, God's chosen people wonder how long they will be tested.)

11. "I think we'll call you Eusebius," I decided. (Chapter 6, p. 102)

(Corrie renames Meyer Mossel for St. Jerome (347—ca. 410), whose real name was Eusebius Hieronymus. St. Jerome is best remembered for translating Hebrew and Greek biblical texts into Latin. His Latin Vulgate was the most-used church text until German and English translations replaced it during the Reformation.)

12. But getting Eusie to eat non-kosher food was something else. (Chapter 6, p. 103)

(Privations of food cause refugees at the Beje to eat meats that have not been killed by Old Testament ritual or blessed by a rabbi.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the autobiography.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Describe the building of the hiding place.

(At a meeting of the underground, Pickwick introduces Corrie to a small goateed man who encourages her to build a secret room to lessen the danger to her family as well as to the refugees. The famous architect, known simply as Mr. Smit, arrives at the Beje and goes on an inspection tour. He is delighted with Corrie's room because it is high up in the house, giving refugees a better chance of escaping detection from Gestapo officers entering below. Pulling her bed to the center of the room, he draws a pencil line thirty inches from the back wall and indicates where the false wall will go.

Workman move in and out, carrying hidden tools and bricks. They are followed by a plasterer, carpenter, and painter. Six days later, the room is ready. Camouflaged with sooty paint, chipped molding, and water stains, the new space is inconspicuous. To enter the hiding place, refugees must crawl through a two-foot square hole behind a sliding panel beneath a shelf. The narrow room permits visitors to stand or even stretch out on a mattress. A concealed vent lets in fresh air. Mr. Smit suggests that Corrie supply the room with fresh jugs of water, hardtack, and vitamins.)

2. Explain how Fred Koornstra helps feed the refugees.

(To protect the operation at the Beje, Willem urges Corrie to develop her own resources. She thinks

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first of Fred Koornstra, the former meter reader. In conjunction with his new job with the Food Office, Corrie arranges for Fred and an accomplice to simulate a hold-up. A week later, Fred arrives with one hundred stolen ration cards. To continue the flow of cards, Fred poses as the meter reader and deposits them in a hollow space under the tread of the bottom step.

On July 1, 1942, at 5:30 P.M., Fred, pretending to be a meter reader makes his first delivery. Even though the police officer Rolf van Vliet is in the shop, Fred goes about his task without sign of concern. Still, Corrie, disturbed by the close call, determines to install a warning system.)

3. Describe Corrie's arrest.

(On the morning of February 28, 1944, Gestapo officers, on a tip from Jan Vogel, raid the Beje. Corrie, sick with flu, at first thinks that the unusual activity indicates a drill, but soon recognizes imminent danger. She helps six people hide behind the false wall and shoves in her briefcase with incriminating names and addresses. She barely has time to conceal the opening with her prison bag and return to bed when Kapteyn enters and arrests her as the ring leader. Corrie pulls on street clothes over her pajamas and abandons her prison bag to spare detection of the hiding place.

Aided by Willemse, Kapteyn begins the interrogation. He strikes Corrie across the face. Following her eye movements, Willemse realizes that the Alpina sign is used as a signal. A woman enters to tell of Pickwick's arrest and is trapped by Willemse. After Betsie's interrogation, the intruders locate the old radio and arrest another messenger for the underground. Telephone calls give away more information as agents listen in on messages.

Even though the agents find no secret room, Willemse declares that he will set a guard around the house "till they've turned up mummies." Corrie and Betsie are joined by Nollie, Peter, and Willem, who were detained in Tante Jans's rooms. Thirty-five people, including the whole ten Boom family, are marched through the streets to the police station. There, Rolf helps Corrie to flush incriminating papers.

The next day a bus transports the prisoners to The Hague, now Gestapo headquarters. The chief, out of pity, questions Casper first, but finds the old man unrelenting in his support of the Jews. The questions continue—name, age, children, occupation. Late at night, the group is taken by canvas-roofed army truck to Scheveningen, the federal penitentiary. Catching a last glimpse of Casper, Corrie cries out, "Father!...God be with you!")

4. Describe Corrie's return home.

(Shortly before Christmas, 1944, Betsie dies of a lung ailment in the Ravensbruck hospital. At the end of the month, Corrie receives discharge papers, but is not allowed to depart until the edema disappears from her feet and ankles. She ministers to the sick until her final discharge.

Outfitted with clean clothes, including a wool skirt and silk blouse, hat, coat, and shoes, Corrie signs a statement declaring that she has "never been ill at Ravensbruck, never had an accident, and that the treatment had been good." She receives a day's bread ration, food coupons for three days, and her valuables and Dutch money. With a dozen other released prisoners, Corrie is marched to the train station. On the iron bench she reaches for bread and discovers that it and the coupons are gone.

After midnight the train arrives in Berlin. Boarding a second train for Uelzen, Corrie endures hunger, dizziness, and swelling of the feet. She is unable to buy food at the station cafe. Detours and slow travel stretch out the torture of her ride home. At the Uelzen station, an agent strikes Corrie on the head because she falls asleep at a cafe table. In Groningen Corrie makes her way to a nearby hospital where a nurse feeds her and provides a hot bath and bed. After ten days' recuperation, she is ready for the remainder of her journey.

The switchboard operator at the hospital reaches Willem in Hilversum. Hospital authorities arrange for Corrie to travel to Willem's nursing home aboard a food truck. After two more weeks of recuperation among family and friends, Corrie is driven home by Oom Herman, who drives a curtained "limousine with official government plates." The greeting from Toos, Nollie, and the nieces brings tears as they all realize that Betsie and Casper will never return.)

5. Explain how Corrie continues Betsie's work.

(Seized by a restlessness after her release from Ravensbruck, Corrie thinks first of the city's feeble-minded. She organizes a group at the Beje. Still the gnawing ache for her sister continues. Fed by the urge to tell people the message she learned in prison, Corrie begins speaking publicly about Betsie's vision of a home where victims "would learn to live again unafraid."

At one of the meetings, Mrs. Bierens de Haan, a widow whose five sons worked in the Resistance, promises to help if her fifth child returns. Two weeks later, Mrs. de Haan follows up her promise by donating her 56-room mansion for the housing and therapy of released prisoners. Corrie is moved by the description of the inside, which fits Betsie's vision. By June of 1945, many hundreds of "damaged human being[s]" come to

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the residence to recover. Two years later, prisoners from the Pacific war theater arrive.

By comparing their sufferings, the inmates begin to heal and forgive the traitors, soldiers, and guards who brutalized them. More than other victims, the members of the NSB suffer ridicule and shame as patriotic Dutchmen isolate them for being traitors. Twice Corrie tries to invite the collaborators to the Beje, but is unable to achieve her plan until the feeble-minded inmates move out, leaving the Beje empty for the NSB members.

To support her work, Corrie travels over Europe and the United States seeking contributions. About the time that she heals some of her own animosities toward her captors, the director of a relief organization offers a place for more rehabilitation work—the concentration camp at Darmstadt. True to Betsie's vision, Corrie orders bright yellow-green paint and windowboxes.)

Questions 6-8 Interpretative Level

6. Explain why Corrie ten Boom is not only able to survive hardship, but to reach to others in distress.

(From early childhood, Corrie is taught to rely upon God's strength and wisdom to get her through the worst moments. Her father, on their weekly train trip to regulate the clocks, convinces Corrie that God carries the weight of difficult knowledge and shields His loved ones from burdens that are too hard to bear. Even after the loss of her beloved Karel, Corrie takes strength from communion with God. Through regular prayer during the war years, Corrie puts herself in danger, moving through curfew-darkened streets to find places for refugees.)

Having supported her aunt and mother through illnesses, Corrie is no stranger to nursing the sick. She assists Betsie at the prison camp until there is no hope for the weaker woman's survival. Even in the depths of her despair for Betsie and Casper, Corrie finds hope in the belief that the family will be reunited in heaven. Because of her radiant trust and belief in a higher power, Corrie draws darker souls to her, such as Lieutenant Rahms, who despises his job of grilling prisoners to gain information, and even the Snake, the spiteful prison official who responds to Corrie's forthright request for a hospital pass.)

7. Why do the war years bring out the best in some people?

(Despite danger of conscription or arrest, Dutch people continue helping each other as the Nazi menace worsens. They accept refugees in their homes, share scant rations and bits of information, and even feed the ten Booms' cat, which is abandoned after the whole family is arrested. In the same spirit, Corrie receives Mary

Itallie, an obvious risk because of her asthmatic breathing, into the hiding place. Likewise she takes in a mother and newborn child, who also present special problems of care and concealment.

Partly as a response to Corrie's goodness and courage, others respond to her need with kindness. Rolf, the police officer, delivers information about Harry de Vries's imprisonment; Fred, the meter reader, delivers stolen ration cards; friends and fellow watchmakers assist Corrie in reopening her shop. In prison, Corrie finds goodness in a nurse who supplies a set of the Gospels and much-needed soap. Another prison employee brings a stretcher to transport the dying Betsie to the hospital. On the train ride home, a kind man helps Corrie locate the train; another guides her when her feet swell.

The theme of goodness begetting goodness undergirds the entire autobiography. The ten Booms, long known for their unflinching love of others, stand out as beacons to the war-darkened souls around them. Corrie, continuing the work of her father, mother, and Tante Jans, is well schooled in compassion. Her simple message strikes a chord in all who come in contact with her—love is stronger than hate.)

8. Explain why Betsie and Willem are key figures in Corrie's life.

(Corrie, a spinster trained to repair watches, develops her skills by emulating her brother and sister. From Willem she learns to be watchful for the changes that sweep Europe during the 1930's. Later, as he takes action to resettle refugees, she follows his example and equips herself with the knowledge and backing she needs to run a refugee operation of her own.

In prison, however, Willem's skills are less helpful. It is the example set by Betsie that sustains Corrie during the worst of her incarceration. Betsie regularly forgives people who brutalize her and worries about their souls. In the most fetid of conditions, Betsie insists on regular worship services, even when the words must be translated repeatedly to reach those who speak other languages. Corrie wars against odd moments when her own heart hungers for revenge. By repeating Betsie's forgiving words, Corrie resists committing vengeful acts and opens her heart to her persecutors, even the prison guard she meets after the war.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. Why is the story of a simple Dutch watchmaker uplifting to readers?

(Even though the war years are long in the past, young readers take courage from the example of

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Corrie ten Boom and learn a valuable lesson about tolerance. The idea that a middle-aged woman can withstand the evils of Nazi Germany and still find strength to organize hostels to rehabilitate both oppressed and oppressor serves as living proof that the Christian concept of forgiveness is workable in modern society, even in wartime. Unlike Anne Frank or Elie Wiesel, Corrie ten Boom survives both physical destruction and spiritual corruption. Her faith remains open and compassionate to fellow sufferers, enabling her to do the unlikely—an elderly Dutch woman canvassing the world for funds to do good.)

10. What is the value of autobiography?

(The true story of Corrie ten Boom bears the earmarks of realism rather than the made-up qualities of fiction. By reporting her extraordinary experiences in Ravensbruck prison, Corrie is able to influence others to follow her example. Readers of autobiography are more likely to identify with real people than with fictional characters because real people, like Casper, Betsie, and Corrie ten Boom, are more believable.)

Because the background facts of World War II provide both time and setting for the story, the reader can connect historical facts with the writer's experiences and thereby fit the events into historical context. By envisioning Corrie alongside the great heroes of the war era—Dwight Eisenhower, Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle—the reader gains a better insight into the lives and struggles of ordinary people who also have their stories to tell.)

Questions 11 and 12 Creative Level

11. Describe the scene that is prophesied in chapter 32 of the book of Isaiah. Make an oral report on the reason that this chapter provides a title for the book.
12. Draw the Beje and surrounding shops in Haarlem along the Barteljorisstraat. Indicate the location of the hiding place. Show the placement of buzzers, telephone, hidden book and ration cards, and the repair shop.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Make a timeline of the rise and fall of Hitler's empire. Include the names of countries overrun by Nazis as well as the activities of his most trusted staff members, particularly Goering and Goebbels. Note especially the effects of German occupation on Holland.
2. Read several writings about victims of World War II. Sample Elie Wiesel's *Night*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Hiroshima*, and Yevgeny Yevtushenko's "Babi Yar." Compare the reactions of various victims to persecution, hunger, brutality, and separation from family members.
3. Draw a map depicting Corrie's movements from the time of her arrest until her return to the Beje. Note the time she spends at each place and her primary activities.
4. Compose a character sketch of one the minor participants in establishing the hiding place, for example Peter, Pickwick, Willem, Nollie, or Fred. Emphasize the contribution of the character to the safety and survival of Jewish refugees.
5. Role-play the part of various famous people who participated in World War II. Choose from these major characters: Winston Churchill, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, General Dwight Eisenhower, General George Patton, General Charles DeGaulle, Eva Braun, President Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin, and Benito Mussolini.
6. Summarize the purpose and result of the Nuremberg trials. Discuss the punishment meted out to major war criminals. Append your own opinion about retaliation against former Nazis.
7. Research the work of Eleanor Roosevelt in the founding of the United Nations. Compare her post-war contribution to that of Corrie ten Boom.
8. Write a theme discussing the effect of war and deprivation on the human spirit. Explain why some ordinary people develop into heroes and heroines during difficult times while others merely survive.
9. Write a brief summary of the atrocities suffered in the Pacific end of the war. Comment on the use of the atomic bomb as a means of ending the conflict.
10. Create a plaque honoring the ten Boom family. Suggest an appropriate war memorial to their efforts.

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THE HIDING PLACE

VOCABULARY TEST

In each sentence below, replace the underlined word with the exact word used by the author from the list that follows. Notice that you will have words left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. There was the high bench over which Father had bent for so many years, doing the delicate, exacting work that was known as the finest in Holland.
- _____ 2. It was that solemn mother-daughter talk promised over the years for this night, the entire sex education which our silent society provided, was now not possible.
- _____ 3. The letter had been opened by the inspectors--held by them too: the postmark was over a week old.
- _____ 4. Then we were standing before a high counter and a young male clerk was saying "Leave all personal belongings at the window marked 'C'."
- _____ 5. Standing a few feet away, seeming paralyzed by some terrible emotion, was old Katrien from Nollie's house!
- _____ 6. Except for a car parked at the street curb directly in front, everything looked misleadingly normal.
- _____ 7. And since when had the German occupation government concerned itself with Dutch legal method.
- _____ 8. The knitters of Barracks 28 became the praying heart of the huge diseased body that was Ravensbruck, interceding for all in the camp—guards, under Betsie's prodding, as well as prisoners.
- _____ 9. Right at the university, he said, seeds were being planted of a disregard for human life such as the world had never seen.
- _____ 10. Ever since the days when Willem was studying church history, I had remembered the impressive fourth-century church father, Eusebius.
- _____ 11. The tempting odor reached our meat-starved palates.
- _____ 12. Almost every day a round of shots would send the anguished whispers flying: How many this time?
- _____ 13. It was a strange dinner party that evening, moving as it did from heartfelt thanksgiving to the nearest thing to a bitter argument our close-knit family had ever had.
- _____ 14. And yet, in the intervals, we forgot.
- _____ 15. In heaven, I intensely believed, everybody had footwarmers.

censors	contempt	deceptively	disbelievingly	distinguished	
effects	fervently	immobilized	interludes	obscenities	
painstaking	procedures	ranting	replicas	salvo	shuttling
taciturn	tantalizing	transcript	vast	veering	venerable

THE HIDING PLACE

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Identification (30 points)

Name the character who is described in each phrase below. Select your answer from the list that follows. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. teams up with Willemse and Kapteyn to stop the ten Booms' rescue efforts.
- _____ 2. plays the "Wilhelmus" for the whole church at full volume.
- _____ 3. a Dutch Jewish woman with blond hair and blue eyes.
- _____ 4. foreman of the Phillips factory radio parts assembly room.
- _____ 5. hates his work as a prison interrogator.
- _____ 6. a wealthy customer known to Betsie and Corrie as Pickwick.
- _____ 7. poisons his bulldogs to keep them from starving.
- _____ 8. is Corrie's married sister and mother of six children.
- _____ 9. works harder than ever when she learns she is ill with diabetes.
- _____ 10. dies in a corridor after becoming separated from his records.
- _____ 11. walks out in broad daylight and is arrested.
- _____ 12. supplies Corrie with stolen ration cards.
- _____ 13. wears a splendid suit to the hundredth birthday party.
- _____ 14. runs a nursing home.
- _____ 15. takes Corrie's place as housekeeper for the Beje.

Annaliese	Betsie	Casper	Christoffels	Fred	Harry de Vries
Herman Sluring	Jans	Jan Vogel	Jop	Karel	Lieutenant Rahms
Mary Itallie	Meyer Mossel	Moorman	Nollie	Otto	Peter Willem

Part II: Definitions (20 points)

Match each term below with its English definition. Select your answer from the list at right. Place the letter of your answer in the blank at left.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. the Beje | A. faster |
| _____ 2. schneller | B. Jew |
| _____ 3. "Wilhelmus" | C. the ten Boom house |
| _____ 4. NSB | D. kingdom |
| _____ 5. Jood | E. Festival of Lights |
| _____ 6. Opa | F. the Dutch national anthem |
| _____ 7. S.D.'s | G. Attention! |
| _____ 8. Achtung! | H. traitors |
| _____ 9. Reich | I. Grandfather |
| _____ 10. Hanukkah | J. German troops |

THE HIDING PLACE

Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Identify the speaker of each quotation. Then name the person to whom it is addressed.

_____ 1A. If you're going to work with the underground . . . you must learn
_____ 1B. not to ask questions.

_____ 2A. God loves Karel—even more than you do—and if you ask Him, He
_____ 2B. will give you His love for this man, a love nothing can prevent, nothing
destroy.

_____ 3A. You're suffering from malnutrition. You must be careful what you eat.
_____ 3B.

_____ 4A. I'm *not* going to wear that great ugly hat to school just because
_____ 4B. Tante Jans paid for it.

_____ 5A. Can you recite the One Hundred and Sixty-sixth Psalm...?
_____ 5B.

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Describe the women's response to Betsie's worship services in the prison barracks.

2. Discuss occasions when Casper's words come back to Corrie and give her strength.

3. Explain Corrie's relationship to Willem.

THE HIDING PLACE

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Short Answer (20 Points)

Supply a word or phrase from the list below in answer to the following questions. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- _____ 1. Who delivers information to Corrie about Harry de Vries's imprisonment?
- _____ 2. By what name do Betsie and Corrie know Oom Herman?
- _____ 3. For whose birthday do the prison guards leave the corridors unattended?
- _____ 4. What does Corrie make out of the cellophane around the cookies?
- _____ 5. What disease kills Tante Jans?
- _____ 6. Whose parents expect him to "marry well"?
- _____ 7. What does Corrie regret leaving behind when she is arrested?
- _____ 8. Who is arrested for sheltering Annaliese?
- _____ 9. Who dies in the corridors of The Hague?
- _____ 10. What do Betsie and Corrie load at the Siemens factory?

bag Bep Betsie Bible cover books bronchitis Casper cerebral hemorrhage
Corrie diabetes Eusie Hitler influenza Jop
Karel knitted socks lampshade Lieutenant Rahms metal plates
Nollie Pickwick radio parts Rolf the Queen wall decoration

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark each of the following statements either T for true or F for false.

- _____ 1. Corrie becomes the first licensed female watchmaker in Holland.
- _____ 2. After rearing his own four children, Casper ten Boom takes in eleven children who need a home.
- _____ 3. Jews who live at the Beje refuse to eat non-kosher food, even if they have to go hungry.
- _____ 4. To relieve her boredom in prison, Corrie makes friends with an ant.
- _____ 5. Despite Corrie's efforts to conceal the blue sweater, it is stolen by a prison guard at Vught.
- _____ 6. The guards threaten Betsie for sabotaging the radio parts from the Phillips factory.
- _____ 7. Casper attends meetings of the underground with Pickwick.
- _____ 8. Corrie is not allowed to leave the prison until the swelling goes down in her legs.
- _____ 9. The Jews left behind the false wall after Corrie's arrest are arrested and shot.
- _____ 10. The pastor who visits the watch shop refuses to help refugees even after Corrie shows him the baby.

THE HIDING PLACE

Part III: Completion (30 points)

Complete each of the following statements with a word from the list below. You will have answers left over when you finish.

1. It was four months after Tante Jans' funeral that the long-awaited invitation came to Willem's First _____.
2. Germany is systematically teaching disrespect for _____.
3. In the end, Father did fire _____ —the first employee he had ever discharged in more than sixty years in business.
4. When I had met my fourth Smit, Kik explained with a grin, "It's the only last name in the _____."
5. This was a triangle-shaped wooden sign advertising "Alpina _____" which I had placed in the dining room window.
6. In a few moments _____ reappeared, making a very pretty brunette in long coat and kerchief, a fur muff hiding his hands.
7. Fred was the man who used to read the _____ at the Beje.
8. What a day it was when the old _____ in the rear hall jangled joyously for the first time in three years!
9. He put a _____ in every room with a door or a window on the street.
10. If the raid comes at night they must not only take their sheets and blankets but get the _____ turned.
11. Get ready to evacuate! Collect all possessions in _____!
12. And I knew that if _____ stood in front of me now I could kill him.
13. Instantly we were on our feet again. _____! The straw was literally alive with them.
14. I was doling out a drop of the _____ each morning on her piece of black bread, but how much longer could the small bottle last?
15. The loudspeaker beeped and a voice came on: a woman was missing; the entire _____ would stand on the *Lagerstrasse* until she was found.

assignment barracks Bible bicycle buzzer coffee Davitamon
electric meter factory Fred gentiles Jan Vogel Jop Lice
mattress nursing home old age Otto Peter pillowcases rats
S.D. Sermon sign Talmud Toos underground wall phone watches

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Explain how Corrie uses and shares the common items she receives in prison.
2. Discuss Corrie's post-war mission. How does she combat hatred?
3. Describe the harmonious family life at the Beje.

THE HIDING PLACE

VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. painstaking | 9. contempt |
| 2. taciturn | 10. venerable |
| 3. censors | 11. tantalizing |
| 4. effects | 12. salvo |
| 5. immobilized | 13. veering |
| 6. deceptively | 14. interludes |
| 7. procedures | 15. fervently |
| 8. vast | |

COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Jan Vogel | 9. Jans |
| 2. Peter | 10. Casper |
| 3. Annaliese | 11. Mary Itallie |
| 4. Moorman | 12. Fred |
| 5. Lieutenant Rahms | 13. Christoffels |
| 6. Herman Sluring | 14. Willem |
| 7. Harry de Vries | 15. Betsie |
| 8. Nollie | |

Part II: Definitions (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. I |
| 2. A | 7. J |
| 3. F | 8. G |
| 4. H | 9. D |
| 5. B | 10. E |

Part III: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1A. Kik | 4A. Nollie |
| 1B. Corrie | 4B. Betsie |
| 2A. Casper | 5A. Meyer Mossel |
| 2B. Corrie | 5B. Casper |

- 3A. nurse
3B. Corrie

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY

Part I: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Rolf | 6. Karel |
| 2. Pickwick | 7. bag |
| 3. Hitler | 8. Nollie |
| 4. lampshade | 9. Casper |
| 5. diabetes | 10. metal plates |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

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

Part III: Completion (30 points)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Sermon | 9. buzzer |
| 2. old age | 10. mattress |
| 3. Otto | 11. pillowcases |
| 4. underground | 12. Jan Vogel |
| 5. watches | 13. Lice |
| 6. Jop | 14. Davitamon |
| 7. electric meter | 15. barracks |
| 8. wall phone | |

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Answers will vary.

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