

SUMMER OF MY GERMAN SOLDIER

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

BETTE GREENE

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1 The action opens during World War II. Nearly everyone in the small town of Jenkinsville, Arkansas, has gathered at the train station to see the German prisoners of war transported to prison camp. Home over lunch, Patty Bergen, the 12-year-old narrator, tells her family's black housekeeper, Ruth, about the soldiers. Then Patty walks downtown to Bergen's Department Store, where she visits her parents, Harry and Pearl. They do not like Patty, but they dote on her younger sister, Sharon. The Bergens are Jewish, unlike the townspeople who are prejudiced against anyone who is different.

Chap. 2 On Sunday, the Bergens visit Mrs. Bergen's parents, the Frieds. They are gentle and loving toward Patty. However, there is great tension between the Bergens and the Frieds, sparked by Pearl's greed and Harry's resentment of their wealth and success in business.

Chap. 3 Patty waits on a handsome young German prisoner of war, Frederick Anton Reiker, as he shops in her family's store. Anton, who speaks excellent English, buys a pencil sharpener and a garish faux diamond pin. Patty is captivated by him.

Chap. 4 Patty tells Sister Parker, a shopgirl in the store, a wild lie about Anton. Patty visits her only female friend, wealthy Edna Louise Jackson, to share her happiness about liking Anton. Edna Louise is shocked Patty could fall for a Nazi prisoner. Edna Louise's prejudices do not help her understand Patty.

Chap. 5 Patty meets her grandmother in Memphis and they spend a pleasant day shopping. However, when Grandma is unable to set up another day out together, Patty feels rejected and cries. Back home, she takes refuge in her hiding place, an abandoned servants' quarters over the garage. Patty seeks out Ruth, but she is busy and worried her son Robert will be hurt while serving overseas. Patty finds Freddy, whom she has been forbidden to associate with because he is poor. She and Freddy throw rocks at cars and break a window. Her father comes tearing home and brutally beats her. Ruth gives Patty the money to replace the window.

Chap. 6 Mrs. Bergen constantly criticizes Patty for her appearance and behavior. On Saturday, she forces Patty to get a permanent, which leaves her hair badly damaged.

Chap. 7 Patty sees Anton escaping from prison camp, grabs his hand, and shelters him in her hiding place. At dinner, the Bergens have a huge fight about a store item; Harry is mean and miserable. Patty is so upset that she vomits her dinner. She decides to smuggle food to Anton, but when father hears her, she returns the food to the refrigerator and goes back to bed.

Chap. 8 The next morning, Patty learns Germans have been discovered hiding bombs on a Florida beach, planning

to blow up war plants. She sneaks food to Anton, and he explains he comes from an educated family who do not support the Nazis. Anton escaped by bribing a greedy guard with the faux diamond pin. He is astonished to learn Patty is Jewish.

Chap. 9 FBI agents question Patty and Mr. Bergen about Anton's escape, believing he was planning to join the Florida saboteurs. Reporter Charlene Madlee of the *Commercial Appeal* covers the story. She takes Patty with her to the prison camp, where Patty learns Anton is 22 years old. The guard corroborates Anton's explanation that he is a scholar and a decent man.

Chap. 10 In a flashback, Patty recalls buying a special shirt for her father as a Father's Day gift. Despite her hopes, Mr. Bergen had rejected the gift – and Patty's love. Patty gives the shirt to Anton. Later, she goes outside and talks to Freddy. Seeing them together, Mr. Bergen beats her brutally with his belt. Anton is so shocked that he runs from his hiding place to intervene. Just in time to avoid capture, he returns to his hiding place.

Chap. 11 Patty tells Ruth the truth about Anton and Ruth graciously feeds him a splendid breakfast. Anton likens Patty's father to Hitler for his cruelty.

Chap. 12 After nearly getting discovered, Anton realizes he must leave his hiding place.

Chap. 13 Patty wants to run away with Anton, but even though he returns her affection, he realizes it is too risky. As a token of his affection, Anton gives Patty his family ring, a heavy crested band of gold. He hops a train and is gone.

Chap. 14 To explain the ring, Patty tells her father a lie about befriending and feeding a bum. Convinced she traded the ring for sex, Mr. Bergen beats Patty.

Chap. 15 Sheriff Caldwell investigates Patty's story and believes her.

Chap. 16 A few weeks after, the FBI comes to investigate Anton's disappearance. They show Patty Anton's blood-stained shirt and she learns Anton was shot and killed in New York City while trying to avoid arrest.

Chap. 17 Patty confesses the truth, explaining to her parents that she, a Jew, befriended a German because he was good to her. When Ruth tries to help Patty, Mr. Bergen fires her.

Chap. 18 The FBI agents take Patty to Memphis. The townspeople turn against her and her parents. Her grandparents and Charlene Madlee come to visit, but not her parents.

Chap. 19 Thanks to the excellent lawyer her father hired, Patty is sentenced to reform school rather than jailed for treason. Mr. Calvin Grimes, a kindly man, buys Patty a meal on the way to the Conrad Reformatory.

Chap. 20 Patty's adjustment to reform school is grim, relieved only by Ruth's visit. Ruth treats her as a loving mother would, showering love and gifts of food.

Chap. 21 As Patty is torn from Ruth's embrace, Ruth

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makes her promise to get an education and fulfill her potential.

TIME LINE

- 1920** Anton Reiker is born.
1929 Harry Bergen borrows money from Pearl's father to buy a store in Jenkinsville, Arkansas.
1930 Patty Bergen is born.
1937 Sharon Bergen is born.
1941 **Dec. 7** Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor.
Dec. 8 The United States declares war on Japan.
Dec. 10 Japanese troops invade the Philippines.
Dec. 11 Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.
1942 **Feb. 27-March 1** Japanese defeat Allied fleet at the Battle of the Java Sea.
April A tornado strikes Jenkinsville.
April 9 U.S. troops at Bataan surrender to the Japanese.
April 10-16 Over 5,000 American soldiers die during the Bataan Death March.
April 18 Doolittle Raid: U.S. planes bomb Tokyo and other Japanese cities.
May 4-8 U. S. Navy stops Japanese invasion of Australia at the Battle of the Coral Sea.
May 6 Corregidor surrenders to the Japanese.
June Anton escapes from the prison camp.
June 4-6 Japanese suffer major defeat at the Battle of Midway.
Aug. 7 U.S. troops land at Guadalcanal.
November Anton is killed. Patty is arrested by the FBI.
Nov. 7 Allied troops land in North Africa.
December Patty is sent to reform school.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bette Greene was born in 1934, in Memphis, Tennessee. According to her website, Greene spent the first thirteen years of her life in the dusty town of Parkin, Arkansas — population 1106. Her parents, Arthur and Sadie Evensky, ran the best store in town. Greene noted, "My friends considered me the luckiest girl in town because, while sugar was being rationed, my parents owned a country store full of gum and candy. But I considered myself the unluckiest, unhappiest girl in town because my religion (Jewish) was alien to my community. I used to sneak into the tents of itinerant Protestant preachers the way a teenager today might sneak into an X-rated movie. As the evangelist spoke with frightening familiarity about the fires of hell, I could feel its heat. And so I 'caught' religion as easily as others caught colds."

Greene attended the University of Alabama in 1952, intending to study writing. The University insisted she study grammar first, though Bette felt she already knew grammar. As a result, she left Alabama for Memphis University where she became feature editor of the college newspaper. Later she studied language at the Alliance Francais in Paris. In 1955, she attended writing classes at Columbia University. In 1972, Greene studied creative writing at Harvard University. Her project was the second draft of *Summer of My German Soldier*.

1959, she married Donald Sumner Greene, a doctor. The couple has two children and two grandchildren.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Walter McVitty, commenting in *Twentieth-Century Chil-*

dren's Writers, could be speaking of all of Greene's works when he observes *Summer of My German Soldier* "has freshness of approach and an intensity of focus and feeling."

According to the critic for *Contemporary Authors Online*, "Bette Greene is a popular and respected author of books for young readers. Her young-adult novels are notable for their depictions of young people who are alienated from society. In all of her works, Greene provides sympathetic presentations of her characters' experiences." (The Gale Group, 2001)

Summer of My German Soldier was nominated for the National Book Award and received the *New York Times* outstanding book award, the Golden Kite Society children's book writer's award, and the American Library Association Notable Book award, all 1973.

OTHER BOOKS BY BETTE GREENE

- The Drowning of Stephen Jones* (1991)
Get On Out Here, Philip Hall! (1981)
Morning Is a Long Time Coming (1978)
Philip Hall Likes Me. I Reckon Maybe (1989)
Them That Glitter and Them That Don't (1981)
A Writers Survivor Kit (1981)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Contemporary Authors Online*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: The Gale Group. 2001.
Twentieth-Century Children's Writers, fourth edition, St. James Press, 1995.
Philadelphia Inquirer, May 26, 1973;
New York Times Book Review, Nov. 4, 1973; Dec. 2, 1973; Nov. 10, 1974; Dec. 1, 1974; Dec. 8, 1974; April 30, 1978.
Christian Science Monitor, Nov. 6, 1974, Oct. 23, 1978.
Washington Post Book World, Nov. 10, 1974, May 10, 1981.
Children's Literature Review, Volume II, Gale, 1976.
Times Literary Supplement, Oct. 1, 1976, Dec. 1, 1978.
New Statesman, November 5, 1976.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the importance of love and acceptance
2. To understand the power of hatred
3. To recognize the significance of setting
4. To assess each character's personality
5. To recognize the novel's theme
6. To find examples of bravery and courage
7. To understand the racial and ethnic hatred described in the novel
8. To find examples of compassion
9. To sympathize with the narrator's plight
10. To describe the novel's mood or atmosphere

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the effects of anti-Semitism and racism
2. To trace the main character's journey from adolescence to maturity
3. To identify with Patty's conflict over Anton
4. To understand why the Bergens hate their daughter
5. To understand Ruth's compassion
6. To probe the relationship between Patty and her parents
7. To see the effect of setting on a person's life
8. To understand the novel's plot structure
9. To grasp why people often fear someone who is different
10. To explore the consequences of not being loved

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LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Bette Greene's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

theme is the main idea in a literary work, the author's general statement about life. The theme of *Summer of My German Soldier* concerns the importance of love. Patty has been denied affection and acceptance all her life. Her father, a cruel man, beats her for the slightest infraction; her mother, a cold and selfish woman, tries to remake Patty into a more conventional beauty. As a Jew in the deep South during World War II, Patty does not fit with her peers, either. In an attempt to bring some love into her life, Patty shelters and then becomes attached to a German soldier. When she sees Anton's feelings are similar to her own, Patty learns to open her heart.

point of view is the position from which a story is told. In *Summer of My German Soldier*, Greene uses the first-person point of view to help readers identify with Patty's plight. We share Patty's emotions, including her love for Anton and her fear of her father's cruelty.

setting is the time and place of the action. The setting is crucial to *Summer of My German Soldier*, because much of the novel revolves around anti-Semitism sparked by World War II and the racial prejudice that permeated the South in the 1940s.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

Novels

John Knowles, *A Separate Peace*
Lois Lowry, *The Giver* and *Number the Stars*
Scott O'Dell, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
Katherine Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia*
Mildred Taylor, *The Road to Memphis* and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

Nonfiction

Richard B. Stolley, *Life: World War 2: History's Greatest Conflict in Pictures*

Internet

"Bette Greene Teacher Resource File,"
<falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/greene.htm>
"Meet Bette Greene," <www.bettegreene.com>

Videos/DVDs

Summer of My German Soldier (1978)

Music

Jukebox: Songs from World War II
Music of World War II
Remember Pearl Harbor: Classic Songs of World War II
Sounds of World War II
That's Why We're Marching: World War II and the American Folksong Movement
Those Were Our Songs: Music of World War II
World War II Radio [Box Set]

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Bette Greene's *Summer of My German Soldier* should include these aspects:

Themes

- anti-Semitism
- bigotry
- confusion
- fear
- hypocrisy

- individuality
- lying
- maturity
- self-realization
- war

Motifs

- dealing with being different
- expressing your individuality
- being kind to others
- coping with racism and bigotry
- the importance of love, affection, and kindness
- accepting others for who they are
- showing compassion for those who are less fortunate
- self-awareness and maturity
- growth and change
- lying to get attention

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. "Our boys at Pearl Harbor would have got a lot of laughs at the farewell party we gave the Chink." (Chap. 1, p. 23) (*Patty is baffled when Mr. Lee, the owner of a grocery in town, suddenly goes out of business. She is equally confused at the big hole in his front window. Readers can infer from Mr. Jackson's vicious remark to Patty's father that Mr. Lee was run out of town in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor. This quote shows the town's prejudice against anyone who is different from the white Protestant majority: Chinese, Jews, or blacks.*)
2. "A German prisoner!" repeated Edna Louise. "That's almost as bad as going out with a nigger!" (Chap. 4, p. 55) (*After she meets Anton, Patty dashes to her so-called best friend, Edna Louise, to share her joy. Patty is shocked when she realizes Edna Louise shares the town's prejudice against outsiders. Edna has a simple world view: anyone who is against America is on the devil's side.*)
3. "And one more thing," I said, looking her straight in the eye, "I don't even like you!" (Chap. 6, p. 76) (*Patty is furious her mother wants her to get a permanent wave at an incompetent beautician. Patty realizes her mother is ashamed of her unstylish appearance—but not enough to have her hair done by the same beautician she uses. Patty is honest when she says she does not like her mother, but her mother has no attachment to Patty at all.*)
4. He would say it was the finest shirt he's ever owned. And then the focus would shift from gift to giver and I would rest there in his arms like a long-lost daughter come home. (Chap. 10, p. 118) (*On Father's Day, Patty tries to buy her father's love by getting him an expensive shirt. Her love offering fails miserably, however, when her father irritably tosses the gift away. In a symbolic rejection of her father, Patty gives the expensive shirt to Anton, who accepts the gift with gratitude.*)
5. And now that I had of my own free will broken faith with my father and my country, I felt like a good and worthy

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person. (Chap. 10, p.120)

(As a Jewish girl during World War II sheltering a German soldier, Patty has broken irrevocably with her heritage. Ironically, this act of defiance makes her feel valued for the first time in her life because she has shown compassion to someone in need.)

6. Freddy is simple. (Chap. 10, p. 124)

(Patty's father forbids her to play with Freddy because he is poor. Nonetheless, Patty feels a bond with him because they are both outcasts: Freddy for his poverty, Patty for her religion. Ironically, Mr. Bergen is unable to show compassion to someone who is essentially in the same position he is. This reveals Mr. Bergen's lack of self-awareness.)

7. But then, if Ruth played the piano I think she'd play only the cracks between the keys. (Chap. 12, p. 138)

(Patty realizes Ruth has carved a life for herself based on outward obedience but inward rebellion. Ruth has managed to walk the thinnest line between respectfulness and subservience. As a result, she has remained true to herself. She is the most admirable person in the novel.)

8. "Even if you forget everything else I want you to always remember that you are a person of value, and you have a friend who loved you enough to give you his most valued possession."(Chap. 14, p. 155)

(With these words, Anton gives Patty his gold ring. She correctly interprets this gift as a bond between them, a tangible sign of her worth as an individual.)

9. Frederick Anton Reiker was shot early this morning while trying to avoid arrest. He died at 10:15 A.M. in New York's Bellevue Hospital. (Chap. 16, p. 182)

(With official confirmation of Anton's death, Patty realizes her dream of living happily ever after with him is over. She has yet to realize the severity of her personal situation, however, as her sheltering an escaped prisoner of war can be perceived—and punished—as treason. At the very least, her action has made life in her hometown impossible for her parents and driven them out of business.)

10. "He was good to me." (Chap. 17, p. 186)

(In an attempt to explain her actions to her father, Patty cries out her need for love and respect—everything her parents have denied her. Tragically, her father is unable to understand Patty's actions were motivated by raw human need.)

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 by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. When and where does the story take place? Why is the setting important to the plot?
(The novel is set in Arkansas in the middle of World War II. Patty's decision to shelter Anton, a German, feeds directly into the hysteria of the time.)
2. How is Patty different from the other children her age?
(First, she is Jewish in a Christian community. Second, she is not interested in clothing, jewelry, hairstyles, or any of the other typical concerns of pre-teen girls.)

3. How did Anton escape from the prison camp?

(He tricks the guard with a fake diamond pin. The foolish, greedy guard assumes the pin is real.)

4. What does Anton believe in?

(He does not believe in religion, education, or psychiatry. Rather, he believes love is better than hate, and there is more nobility in building a chicken coop than in destroying a cathedral.)

5. How does Anton die?

(He is shot while trying to avoid arrest.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why does Ruth give Patty the money to replace the broken car window?

(Only Ruth truly loves Patty. She gives Patty the money to help the child avoid getting beaten by her father.)

7. Why does Patty's father beat her?

(He is filled with self-hatred, consumed by rage at what he perceives as his failure to be as successful as others—especially his in-laws. He beats Patty to displace some of his anger and self-loathing.)

8. In what ways is Ruth a surrogate mother to Patty?

(Unlike Patty's real mother, the housekeeper Ruth feeds Patty, comforts her, protects her, and genuinely loves her.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What do you think Esmerelda the cat in Chapter 16 symbolizes?

(The cat is the only survivor of a fierce tornado. The cat symbolizes Patty, who survives her childhood abuse, the physical beatings and lack of love.)

10. What meaning does Anton's ring have for Patty?

(It represents not only love but also admiration and gratitude.)

Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Write a brief sequel to the story in which you explain Patty's fate after she is released from reform school.

12. Working with a small group of classmates, role-play a dialogue between Patty and her parents in which each side expresses their feelings about their family dynamic.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art/Music

1. Watch a Shirley Temple movie. Then analyze her appeal.
2. Make a model of the hideout in which Patty shelters Anton.
3. Create a new cover for the novel. Explain how your cover art fits the novel's tone, theme, and characters.
4. Sing one of the spirituals mentioned in Chapter 5.
5. Look at several propaganda posters from World War II. Analyze any three posters you choose.
6. Use 10 adjectives to describe Adolf Hitler's personality.
7. Select a memorable quote from the novel and paint or draw it on a plaque.
8. Create an ad for Mr. Bergen's store.
9. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main events.

History/Social Studies

1. Create a World War II timeline, showing at least 10 major events of this epic conflict.

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2. Who was the president during our entrance into World War II? What part did he play to make sure the U.S. won the war?
3. Locate Arkansas on a map. Find out if "Jenkinsville" is a real town.
4. Report on the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Include maps, numbers of casualties, and the effect of the attack on the U.S. entrance into World War II.
5. Find out more about Judaism. Report on the religion, holidays, and culture.
6. Create a Children's Rights charter, listing the rights children have to a safe, secure, and loving environment.

Language Arts

1. Analyze the dialect Bette Green uses to distinguish her African-American characters.
2. List at least 10 books Patty would want to own.
3. Create a character sketch of Pearl or Harry.
4. Patty loves to read the dictionary. List 25 words she would enjoy learning and using.
5. Writing as Charlene Madlee, file a news story on Patty for the *Commercial Appeal*.
6. Rewrite one chapter from Anton's point of view.
7. In your own words, state the novel's theme or message.
8. Analyze Bette Greene's writing style in this novel, focusing on word choice, sentence structure, and figurative language.

Mathematics/Science

1. Create a plan for a Victory Garden, as described on page 7.
2. Patty, age 12, tells Ruth that she is already a teenager. Decide when a child becomes a teen. Justify your answer.

Speech/Drama

1. With a partner, role-play a scene between Anton and Patty in which they explain their feelings for each other.
2. Stage a radio drama, such as the ones described on page 63.
3. Working with a partner, improvise a dialogue in which Mr. and Mrs. Bergen explain their feelings for Patty and justify the way they treat her.
4. Patty's actions caused a great outcry. Form two teams to debate whether or not she should have sheltered Anton.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of difficulties that Patty faced. Then rank these hardships on a scale from most to least difficult.
2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate how Ruth is kind.
3. Explain how the novel would be different if it was set in the present rather than the middle of World War II.
4. Make a character list and describe each character.

TEACHER'S NOTES

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VOCABULARY TEST

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- | | | |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. POW | a. very plain; unattractive |
| _____ | 2. mite | b. fierce |
| _____ | 3. fastidious | c. frail |
| _____ | 4. pulsate | d. infectious |
| _____ | 5. fragile | e. nationalistic |
| _____ | 6. mauve | f. balance |
| _____ | 7. asphalt | g. abbreviation for prisoner of war |
| _____ | 8. lean | h. celebration |
| _____ | 9. cobbler | i. appreciation |
| _____ | 10. contagious | j. throb |
| _____ | 11. ferocious | k. pale purple |
| _____ | 12. symmetry | l. determined |
| _____ | 13. mannequin | m. model |
| _____ | 14. ravaged | n. hideous |
| _____ | 15. patriotic | o. thin |
| _____ | 16. gratitude | p. meticulous |
| _____ | 17. grotesque | q. tar roadway surface |
| _____ | 18. jubilee | r. type of dessert |
| _____ | 19. homely | s. tiny amount |
| _____ | 20. resolute | t. devastated |

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| ___ 1. Patty's adorable five-year-old sister, her parents' favorite child | A. Ruth |
| ___ 2. the newspaper reporter who befriends Patty | B. Patty Bergen |
| ___ 3. the German soldier placed in prison camp in Arkansas | C. Anton Reiker |
| ___ 4. Patty's wealthy, bigoted friend, the daughter of the richest man in town | D. Pearl Bergen |
| ___ 5. a twelve-year-old Jewish girl who falls in love with a German soldier | E. Sharon Bergen |
| ___ 6. owner of the town's largest department store | F. Harry Bergen |
| ___ 7. Patty's beloved maternal grandparents | G. Edna Louise Jackson |
| ___ 8. the Bergens' black housekeeper | H. Freddy |
| ___ 9. a poor, ill-dressed child who Patty is forbidden to play with | I. Charlene Madlee |
| ___ 10. Patty's vain and beautiful mother. | J. The Frieds |

Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Circle the correct word or phrase to complete each of the following statements.

1. The action opens during (World War I, World War II).
2. Nearly everyone in the small town of Jenkinsville, (Arkansas, Tennessee) has gathered at the train station to see the German prisoners of war transported to prison camp.
3. At the Bergen's store, Anton buys a pencil sharpener and a (fake diamond pin, real gold ring).
4. Patty is forbidden to have anything to do with Freddy because he is (black, poor).
5. The first night she hides Anton, Patty decides to smuggle (money, food) to him, but when father hears her, she abandons her plan and goes back to bed.
6. As a special Father's Day gift, Patty had bought her father an expensive (shirt, book) but he had tossed it aside carelessly.
7. As a token of his affection, Anton gives Patty his gold (ring, bracelet).
8. When Ruth tries to help Patty, Mr. Bergen (rewards her, fires her).
9. The FBI takes Patty to (Memphis, New York).
10. The only person who visits Patty in jail is (Mrs. Bergen, Ruth).

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Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- ___ 1. The Bergens treat Patty with great cruelty, but her younger sister Sharon is the family favorite.
- ___ 2. The Bergens are Catholic and the townspeople are prejudiced against anyone who is not Christian.
- ___ 3. Mr. and Mrs. Bergen are business partners with Mrs. Bergen's parents, the Frieds.
- ___ 4. Patty and her friend Edna Louise listen to soap operas on the radio.
- ___ 5. Ruth's son Robert has been killed while fighting in the war.
- ___ 6. Anton is best described as a scholar, not a soldier.
- ___ 7. Convinced that she has let a boy touch her in a sexual way, Mr. Bergen beats Patty violently.
- ___ 8. Anton was shot and killed in Memphis while holding up a bank to get money.
- ___ 9. Patty confesses the truth, explaining to her disbelieving parents that she, a Jew, befriended a German because he was good to her.
- ___ 10. Thanks to Charlene's help, Patty is jailed rather than executed.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain how Patty is different from the other girls in her hometown.
2. Which character in *Summer of My German Soldier* do you find most admirable? Why?
3. Compare and contrast Ruth and Mrs. Bergen.
4. Analyze why Patty decides to help Anton.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

Supply a term to complete each of the following statements. Place your answers in the blanks provided in the sentences.

1. When the novel opens, _____ are being transported to a prison camp in town.
2. Patty's parents own and operate _____, where they sell many different things.
3. Patty meets Anton while he is buying a _____ and a fake diamond pin in her parents' store.
4. At home, Patty often hides in a room located _____.
5. Patty's father often beats her with his hand and a(n) _____.
6. Freddy and Patty throw rocks at _____ and break a window in one of them.
7. Mrs. Bergen is very ashamed of Patty's behavior and her appearance, especially her _____.
8. Agents from the _____ question Patty and Mr. Bergen about Anton's escape, thinking he was planning to join the Florida saboteurs.
9. Anton compares Patty's father to _____ for his cruelty.
10. As a token of his affection, Anton gives Patty a(n) _____.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| _____ 1. the novel's twelve-year-old narrator | A. Sharon Bergen |
| _____ 2. the poor boy Patty is forbidden to play with | B. Anton Reiker |
| _____ 3. the reporter who helps Patty | C. Patty Bergen |
| _____ 4. Patty's beautiful, vain, and cold mother | D. Ruth |
| _____ 5. Patty's surrogate mother | E. Freddy |
| _____ 6. Patty's maternal grandparents | F. Mr. and Mrs. Fried |
| _____ 7. The German soldier Patty helps | G. Edna Louise Jackson |
| _____ 8. Patty's father, a cruel shopkeeper | H. Charlene Madlee |
| _____ 9. Patty's adorable younger sister | I. Harry Bergen |
| _____ 10. A prejudiced teenager, Patty's friend | J. Pearl Bergen |

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Part III: Motivation (20 points)

Complete each phrase below with a reason or justification.

1. The townspeople are prejudiced against the Bergen family because
2. Mr. Bergen likely treats Patty so cruelly because
3. There is great tension between the Bergens and the Frieds due to
4. Anton and Patty are able to communicate so easily because
5. Patty tells wild lies because
6. Patty loves her grandparents because
7. Patty cries after spending the day with her grandmother in Memphis because
8. Mr. Bergen has forbidden Patty to play with Freddy because
9. Anton is almost discovered in his hiding place because
10. Ultimately, Patty helps Anton because

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain how Patty helps Anton.
2. Analyze Patty's lie to her father at the end of Chapter 15: "Patty," said the old man. "I could go through this world proud and happy if only God had seen fit to give us a daughter exactly like you."
3. Describe the novel's setting and explain its importance to the story.
4. Trace the novel's plot. Include the rising action, climax, and resolution.

SUMMER OF MY GERMAN SOLDIER

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

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

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

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

Part II: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. World War II | 6. shirt |
| 2. Arkansas | 7. ring |
| 3. fake diamond pin | 8. fires her |
| 4. poor | 9. Memphis |
| 5. food | 10. Ruth |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

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

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. German prisoners of war | 6. car |
| 2. Bergen's Department Store | 7. hair |
| 3. pencil sharpener | 8. FBI |
| 4. over the garage | 9. Hitler |
| 5. belt | 10. ring |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

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

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

- they are Jewish
- he is so filled with hate about his own shortcomings that he makes her the family scapegoat
- Harry's resentment of their wealth and success in business and Pearl's greed
- Anton speaks excellent English
- to draw attention to herself; to make her parents like her
- they love her and treat her with tenderness
- her grandma is unable to set up another day out together at once, so Patty feels badly rejected
- Freddy is poor and Mr. Bergen is a snob
- he runs out to save Patty from her father's beating
- he is kind to her and she is looking for affection

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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