

ZLATA'S DIARY

ZLATA FILIPOVIC

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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SYNOPSIS

Opening on September 2, 1991, Zlata "Fipa" Filipovic, a native of Sarajevo, Bosnia, names the friends she hopes to see in school. Her life is full with MTV, choir practice, skiing holidays in Italy, friends, and beach trips. On Wednesdays, she studies English with Auntie Mika. On October 19, Zlata's father is called up for ten hours of police reserve duty every two days. Zlata becomes suspicious when Montenegrin reservists enter Herzegovina and Dubrovnik is shelled. More evidence—gasoline shortages and TV news of nearby warfare—unsettles Zlata's mother Alica.

The family celebrates Republic Day on November 29; on December 3, Zlata awakens with a sore throat and is too ill to enjoy her eleventh birthday. Through Caritas, a Catholic relief agency, she makes up packages to brighten the lives of children in war-ravaged areas. On January 23, the family goes skiing on Jahorina; all come down with coughs. On March 1, violence breaks out in Sarajevo; the next day, barricades clog city streets. Three days later, the children are sent home from school because of firing by the "kids," the slang term for their adversaries in the hills above the city.

In early March 1992, blue berets indicate that the United Nations has sent in peacekeepers. Zlata compares herself to Anne Frank of Amsterdam, the famed Jewish diarist of World War II. By April 3, people begin fleeing Sarajevo. Three days later, a woman is shot while trying to cross the bridge. Schools close; the Filipovics move to the basement and stockpile food supplies. There are too few modes of transportation to evacuate all who want to get out of town. Zlata's family opts to stay together in Sarajevo rather than separate and flee to safety.

May brings the war into a sharp, terrorizing focus. Shelling on May 2 sends the Filipovics to the cellar; when they return to the upstairs, they avoid Zlata's room, which faces the firing from the hills. The Bosnian president is kidnapped and the post office burned. Zlata's father runs across the bridge to check on Zlata's grandparents, who have survived the attacks. On May 7, Zlata learns that her friend Nina has died from shrapnel in her brain. On May 13, Alica's office is destroyed; a week later, her brother Braco is wounded in the leg. Zetra Hall, a relic of the Olympic games, burns. On May 27, Zlata writes, "SLAUGHTER! MASSACRE! HORROR! CRIME! BLOOD! SCREAMS! TEARS! DESPAIR!"

By June, the Filipovics must cook on an old wood stove, which they share with neighbors. The shelling moves closer to their quarters; windows shatter. The Filipovics' country house in Crnotina burns in mid-June. Zlata tries to comfort her canary, Cicko. On June 29, Zlata complains that she is "without games, without friends, without the sun, without birds, without nature, without fruit, without chocolate or

sweets, with just a little powdered milk." She weeps for her lost childhood.

In July, Alica walks daily to her new office. Zlata, who has not been outdoors for two months, is relieved when her mother returns unhurt. There is a water shortage; the UN sends soap and detergent, canned fish and beef, cheese, sugar, and cooking oil. Zlata listens to radio reports on military intervention. Mladjo, a family friend, is killed outside his house; Uncle Halim dies from stress. Zlata adopts a stray kitten, named Cici, and regrets losing touch with people who live beyond the neighborhood, particularly her grandparents, whom she used to visit daily.

On August 6, Malik develops a hernia and can no longer carry supplies of water. Eldin, a boy in Zlata's drama club, is killed by shrapnel. On September 20, Zlata is allowed to cross the bridge to visit her grandparents. Two weeks later, she reunites with her friend Mirna. More convoys depart; on November 2, Malik and Alica decide to evacuate their daughter before winter, but Alica fails to get their papers together in time. Malik suffers a deep cut while sawing wood and requires treatment at the hospital.

Zlata notices that the war has placed labels on people—Serb, Croat, and Muslim, written with "the pencil of war which spells only misery and death." When fighting ceases in late November, woodcutters remove trees from Sarajevo's shaded streets and park. The city grows less recognizable and more like a war zone. On December 3, Zlata celebrates her "first wartime birthday." The Otes section is destroyed. Uncle Braco flees on foot. Friends weep openly about losing everything.

On Christmas, Zlata goes to the United Nations Protection Force [UNPROFOR] holiday show. Three days later, the music teacher reopens her school. Zlata rejoices. Malik gets frostbite from cutting wood in the cold cellar. After the New Year, peace talks begin in Geneva. On January 9, the vice premier is killed. Zlata concludes that the war is stealing years from her life and youth.

On February 20, French people visit the apartment to interview Zlata. Malik makes plans to educate her privately. Mail brings news and food packets. Zlata panics when Cicko runs out of bird food. Alica gets some from a colleague. In March, Zlata again suffers fever and sore throat and mourns, "how can I feel spring, when spring is something that awakens life, and here there is no life."

On March 31, 1993, Zlata returns to school. A week later, she composes a eulogy to seven-year-old Cicko, who dies abruptly in his cage after living through the terrible winter. For the first time, Zlata despairs so completely that she contemplates suicide by hanging. On the anniversary of May 2, 1992, Zlata's worst day, she congratulates herself on surviving. At the end of the month, Zlata laments being

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bored and depressed.

On June 13, Zlata receives five photocopies of her journal, with her photo on the cover. People move in and out of the neighborhood. Nedo, a young refugee, leaves for good. In mid-July, more reporters come from Europe and the U.S. They remark on Zlata's excellent English and photograph her. In August, her spirits rise and fall with the availability of bread and mail and the death of Cici the cat. Zlata is learning to "[suppress] everything that hurts." Nedo writes that he has heard of Fipa's diary and has his own copy.

On September 17, as Zlata anticipates another school year under fire, she summarizes: 15,000 dead (3,000 of them children) and 50,000 casualties. Both cemeteries and parks are too full to receive more corpses. Peace talks stall; Zlata wishes for wings to fly like Icarus. A boy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, writes to her. On October 14, Zlata anticipates the publication of her diary in Europe. Her final entry on October 17 holds out no hope of an end to the killing.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in 1980, the only child of Bosnian parents — well-to-do attorney Malik Filipovic, who grew thin while remaining strong for his family, and her mother Alica, a chemist who dissolved into hysteria at the sound of gunfire — Zlata "Fipa" Filipovic came from a strongly academic, if emotional, background. These two qualities fused in the forthright description and melancholy reflections of her diary, a paean to a tough-spirited pre-teen who missed dubbed reruns of *Murphy Brown* and gave up rollerskating in the lobby of the family's apartment building in the Skenderija district of the old part of Sarajevo, the same building where the Filipovics had lived since 1973.

In place of normal play with Barbie dolls and sleds, Zlata learned to stack sandbags, haul water, wash in a makeshift shower, and avoid the Serbian guns that killed her friend Nina as she played in the park. In September 2, 1991, at the beginning of fifth grade, 10-year-old Zlata continued practicing Chopin and Bach on the piano, read, studied the political scene, and started her written diary in short spurts of observation, ennui, fear, and saucy wit. That same week, heavy artillery destroyed her family's vacation retreat at Crotina, fifteen kilometers away. As Zlata's mother quaked and wept, the child steeled herself against constant barrage and learned to make do on beans and rice and infrequent contact with those she loved.

With courage and impish quips, Zlata reported like a pro on loss of electricity, telephones, water, gas, and food. She proclaimed, "I'm writing you about war, death, injuries, shells, sadness and sorrow." In summer 1993, through friendships with foreign correspondents, her diary was passed to UNICEF workers, who published her reflections on a Sarajevan press. Instantly, reporters visited the shell-pocked apartment to gain interviews with the youthful celebrity. A French publisher put out a bestselling European edition and, on December 23, 1993, two months after Zlata ceased writing, evacuated the Filipovic family from the barricaded streets of Sarajevo to a safe home in Paris.

Zlata's journal, which has been marred by over-hype, interpolated passages, and sentimental commentary, brought instant recognition and a movie contract from Universal Pictures. After the American publication of her

diary in the spring of 1994, Zlata launched a five-city U.S. tour, including her parents, a publicist, a representative from the French publisher, and a Serbo-Croatian translator. She displayed remarkable poise and candor as she fielded painful questions about the destruction of her homeland. The same age as Anne Frank of Amsterdam, who detailed the frustrations of hiding from Nazis during World War II while immured in an attic hideaway, Zlata bears little resemblance to the dreamy Anne or her *hors de combat* reportage. In contrast to Anne, who is cut off from violence, Zlata has witnessed carnage, snipers, flames, hunger, furniture chopped up for firewood, shell bursts, and corpses. What innocence she may have possessed has departed along with landmarks of her hometown.

CRITIC'S CORNER

As seen in interviews with Katie Couric on the *Today* show and Charlie Rose's PBS talk show, 13-year-old Zlata Filipovic exudes vibrance, hope, and more than a touch of trauma. In impeccable English, she answers questions about the journal she began at age 10 and demonstrates typical girlish interests: envy of American fashion models, an obsession with shoes, love of animals, and a poignant farewell to her homeland. Somewhat hyper, but completely focused and unflinching, her personal appearances echo the tone, style, and historic worth of her diary. Like literature's most memorable diarists — Anne Frank, Samuel Pepys, James Baldwin, Sarah K. Knight, William Byrd, Queen Victoria, and anonymous settlers crossing the American prairie — Zlata displays a multifaceted personality and joy in normal passages of childhood, which parallel her exasperation with a political conundrum that has stymied world powers.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the value of security and self-esteem
2. To explain the importance of peers and a healthy, fun-loving outlook
3. To enumerate measures that protect people from danger and disease
4. To account for problematic behaviors, especially withdrawal, hysteria, fear, aggression, bullying, racism, and victimizing.
5. To account for insecurity caused by shifts in family structure from death of a parent, separation, war, hunger, cold, and isolation
6. To discuss literary methods of revealing character strengths, particularly first person narrative
7. To comment on the value of keeping a journal and writing to pen pals as a method of recording history and of releasing tensions
8. To justify pet care during times of hunger and turmoil
9. To characterize changes in a city when war upsets normal activities

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain why the loss of trees and the burning of furniture changes Zlata's outlook
2. To assess shifts in tone as Zlata learns the realities of constant shelling
3. To account for the world's interest in the eyewitness

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account of war by a young girl

4. To order events that lead up to the Filipovic family's departure
5. To describe such turning points in the diary as Nina's death, Nedo's departure, the opening of the music school, and Braco's wound
6. To account for Zlata's good humor and zest for fun
7. To predict how Zlata will cope with a future return to Sarajevo
8. To explain how the group handles crises, as with the cut on Malik's hand, sickness from impure water, the closing of schools, and the destruction of Alica's office
9. To define propaganda and explain how governments may use Zlata's diary as a tool for ending the war in Sarajevo

MEANING STUDY

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

1. Classes have also started at music school now. I go twice a week for piano and solfeggio. (Thursday, September 19, 1991, p. 1)
(Zlata is studying solfeiges, a necessary part of piano training. Solfeggios are musical building blocks based on sol-fa or thirds. Like learning scales and other aspects of music theory, a grounding in solfege fundamentals helps students learn to compose chord progressions.)
2. There's a real war going on in Dubrovnik. (Wednesday, October 23, 1991, p. 6)
(The first hint of the coming war occurs when fighting breaks out in Dubrovnik, a Croat seaport and cultural center founded in the 7th century by Greek settlers. Dubrovnik is 55 miles south-southwest of Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, which is an industrial center eight times larger than Dubrovnik.)
3. Super!!! Mommy is letting me go. In my backpack I've got my school books, my pajamas, my toothbrush . . . and as soon as I put you in — off I go. CIAO!!! (Friday, November 8, 1991, p. 8)
(Zlata's breezy style attests to her survivor's spirit and her anticipation of a spend-the-night party with her best friends, Martina and Matea (M&M). She addresses her diary as Mimmy, as though the pages were a second person in whom she can confide. The farewell at the end is Italian for an informal good-bye and is used throughout Europe and in the United States.)
4. People are starving. We're wondering about how to send a package to Srdjan. It can be done somehow through Caritas. (Tuesday, November 12, 1991, p. 9)
(Caritas, the international Catholic humanitarian aid and relief organization, takes its name from the Latin word for charity. Originated in Cluj, Romania, by Ioan Stoica, the Transylvanian outreach is an investment firm that pools contributions and savings to pay for purchases of generators, fuel, food, blankets, clothing, and medicine. Caritas also aids families in financing rebuilding projects. Similar to a pyramid or Ponzi scheme, Caritas has caused potential investors to reconsider the group for its questionable business practices.)
5. It'll be November 29th, Republic Day soon. (Wednesday, November 27, 1991, p. 11)
(Yugoslavia became a kingdom of Serbs, Slovenes, and Croats in 1918 by the union of two independent states, Serbia and Montenegro, with parts of the old Austro-Hungarian empire. The name "Yugoslavia" means "land of the south Slavs." The country was occupied by Germany during World War II and was re-established as a federal republic after the defeat of Germany.)
6. Several people were wounded at the Marshal Tito army barracks. People sang and cried "Bosnia, Bosnia," "Sarajevo, Sarajevo," "We'll live together" and "Come outside." (Thursday, March 5, 1992)
(Josip Broz, a former metalworker who helped establish a Yugoslavian Communist party, led the Yugoslavia resistance at the end of World War II. Because of his close alliance with Joseph Stalin, Russia's dictator, Broz became Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito. From 1945 until his death in 1980, Tito ruled the Balkan nation as a Communist republic. In 1948 Tito broke with Stalin and made Yugoslavia a non-aligned nation. The end of Communist rule in the early 1990s was followed by increased ethnic and religious tensions, which led to war.)
7. People are worried and sad again. The blue helmets (actually, they're blue berets) have arrived in Sarajevo. We're safer now. (Tuesday, March 24, 1992)
(After a vote of concerned countries, the United Nations peacekeeping forces, made up of soldiers from various countries, entered the Bosnian civil war as a means of halting violence to noncombatants. A humanitarian effort, the arrival of peacekeepers, who wear the distinctive baby blue headgear, brought hope that civilians could breathe easier and move about the city of Sarajevo without fear of artillery or snipers. At times, when the shelling is heaviest, the U.N. troops withdraw, then return during cease-fires to evacuate the wounded and deliver food.)
8. Today is Bairam [a Muslim religious holiday]. There aren't many people in the streets. (Saturday, April 4, 1992, p. 31)
(Zlata, who grew up in a cosmopolitan city, is familiar with both Muslim and Christian holidays and culture. The celebration of Bairam occurs twice a year. The smaller feast day ends Ramadan, an annual month of prayer and daylight fasting that falls in the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The larger Bairam, also an annual festivity, occurs on the feast of the yearly pilgrimage to Mecca, Islam's holiest city.)
9. The result of last night's fascism is broken glass in Daddy's office and at the Bobars' shattered windows. (Friday, May 29, 1992, p. 56)
(Zlata labels the violence in Sarajevo a fascist action. Fascism is a totalitarian political philosophy that places the nation or race ahead of the individual. Facism is often opposed to Socialism and Communism, although all three philosophies are similiar in many ways. Founded by Benito Mussolini, Italy's dictator from 1919 until his ouster during World War II, fascism employs terrorists and intensely patriotic police squads who

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deny civil rights to citizens by detaining, questioning, torturing, or imprisoning.)

10. Daddy has a hernia. He's lost a lot of weight and carrying the water was too much for him. The doctor has told him that he mustn't lift anything heavy anymore. (Sunday, August 16, 1992, p. 78)
(A hernia is the entrapment of a part of the intestine or other organ or connective tissue between layers of muscle. The pain is severe, especially during heavy lifting, and likely to strangulate the trapped segment, leading to gangrene or peritonitis and death. Malik Filipovic probably wore himself down by too much work and by a lack of protein in his diet to maintain strong muscles. In a weakened condition, he was ripe for injury.)

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 from the diary.

Questions 1 - 4 Literal Level

1. What does the introduction add to the text of the diary? (Journalist Janine Di Giovanni explains how the Serbian War changed life for the Filipovics and their relatives and neighbors. An apparently affluent, privileged family, Zlata and her parents enjoy the beach, skiing on Jahorina, travel to Italy, and a country home in Crnotina. According to Di Giovanni, the family's apartment "was spacious and elegant with a view of the river." Life is filled with visits from relatives and friends, holidays, and celebrations.
According to the extended biography, Zlata, the Filipovics' only child, received English and piano lessons, excelled at school, and met with a host of close friends at drama club, birthday parties, holiday feasts, afternoon skating, and choir practice. She also enjoyed a reassuring relationship with her grandparents, whom she saw every day.
As the introduction indicates, in spring 1992, this pleasant existence in Sarajevo changed to running, hiding, conserving wood and water, cooking packaged and canned foods from relief agencies, and trying to stay alive and sane. To Zlata, the issues of "ethnic cleansing, the Geneva talks, Lord Owen and the division of Bosnia" were incomprehensible. To add to her confusion, Zlata could no longer depend on healthy parents or even school. To save herself from the stress syndrome that afflicted her mother and others, Zlata mentally removed herself from the action and developed "a slightly detached viewpoint" through Mimmy, the persona of her diary. Perhaps this withdrawal kept her going.)
2. How do the Filipovics depart Sarajevo and Yugoslavia? (As the introduction explains, Di Giovanni wrote about Zlata in an article for the London Sunday Times. She received a letter from Helen Harvey of Glasgow, Scotland, but was unable to deliver it because of increased aggression on Christmas Day and over the week that followed. The signs grew ominous — five

children died in the shelling of a kindergarten.

- Fortunately for the three Filipovics, on December 23, 1993, they boarded armored vehicles provided by the French arm of UNPROFOR. Departing from the Skenderija district of old Sarajevo, the convoy moved to the airport and through government and Serbian checkpoints. Within hours, Zlata and her parents were safely on their way to a new residence in Paris and world notoriety for Zlata and her diary.)
3. What people are significant to Zlata's reportage? (On the worst days, Zlata focuses on the few people she can see and interact with after the shelling confines her to the apartment, the cellar, and neighbors' residences. She remains close to her parents, Malik and Alica, and shows concern for her Uncle Braco, who is wounded in the leg. She follows the adventures of her friends, Mirna, Martina, Matea, and Nedo, a 27-year-old refugee who leaves Sarajevo and marries. Other names that stand out are aunts and uncles, neighbors like the Bobars, and Srdjan, with whom the family tries to maintain contact. Zlata also makes new friends by talking with photographers and reporters Alexandra and Janine Di Giovanni about the effects of the war on school, shopping, play, and other areas normal to childhood.)
4. What alternatives does Zlata have? (Zlata is not forced to remain in Sarajevo. On April 3, 1992, as the situation worsens, she worries "What do I do if they bomb Sarajevo?" Her father returns from Zenica with reports of crowded bus terminals and railroad depots. Some vehicles carry away mothers and children or parentless children. Many men choose to tough it out in Sarajevo. The adults — both parents and grandparents — consider Zlata's welfare and decide not to believe rumors of imminent bombing. They choose to remain together, an option that suggests denial of the danger. Thirteen days later, the mass exodus worsens. Zlata reports, "There are not enough buses, trains or planes for all the people who want to get out of here."
In November, Zlata writes that her parents and grandparents have again discussed the issue of separation. Alica has decided to take Zlata and leave Sarajevo; Malik plans to remain in the city. Zlata agrees with their plan because she "can't stand it here anymore." Auntie Ivanka contends that war is hardest for children to bear. On November 13, Zlata records the preparations of Maja and Bojana Bobar, who plan to leave the next day by convoy. Alica fails to get documents together; she and Zlata must continue their deadly game of staying alive under daily shelling.)
- #### Questions 5 - 8 Interpretive Level
5. How does Zlata change over the expanse of her diary? (At first, Zlata, nicknamed Fipi, is a vibrant ten-year-old who loves friends and relishes being the spoiled darling of the Filipovic household. She likes games, telephone conversations, rock and classical music, movies, books, and play. The tone of her diary intersperses war and cheer, even after the deaths of Nina and Eldin, her friends, who are killed by shrapnel in separate inci-

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dents. Gradually, a note of desperation creeps in as the family cannot count on electricity or a supply of clean water. Life in a dark, cold basement becomes mere subsistence.

References to political pressures color the girlish chatter of Zlata's entries. She takes note of peace negotiations in Geneva in January 1993. She begins to hate the inhumanity of the gunners, nicknamed "kids," who pour shells and bullets on the buildings. After the city's trees are cut and her school destroyed, Zlata loses her kitten and canary. Her mother weeps openly and trembles erratically before Janine. Malik loses weight and suffers a hernia from hauling water. Zlata recognizes the signs of family deterioration. On September 29, 1993, she longs for "wings so I could fly away from this hell. Like Icarus.")

6. What is Zlata's attitude toward lost childhood?

(A key theme in Zlata's 1993 entries is the destruction of her innocence, the loss of more people who matter to her, and the death of her hometown, by then a ragged ghost of its former self. Tough and resilient, she vows to survive and promises, "that I will not suffer the fate of Anne Frank. That I will be a child again, living my childhood in peace." The entry for October 4 grows more contemplative, more realistic: "Life in a closed circle continues . . . It's a life of waiting, of fear, a life where you want the circle to open and the sun of peace to shine down on you again.")

To assuage the misery of confinement and shortages, Zlata thrives on friendship. She adds on October 4, "I went into the sitting room and there I found ALEXANDRA. She came from Paris this morning. Rested, beautiful, content. I was glad to see her." It is apparent by Zlata's commentary that she values calm and recognizes how strain is affecting her and how much she is losing by daily hiding, starving, and cowering in the dark.)

7. What is the breaking point for Zlata?

(On October 7, 1993, Zlata exults that she can again enjoy school, reading, and piano music. Yet, she does not fall victim to false hope. Looking at the calendar, she comments ominously, "Winter is approaching, but we have nothing to heat with." She quails at the thought of another year of torment. Her conclusion derives from the philosophy of a survivor, "God, we've lost two years listening to gunfire, battling with electricity, water, food, and waiting for peace." The suffering of her parents grows onerous. Zlata misses a healthy diet and refuses to let herself think of pizza, lasagna, and luxuries from times past.

On October 13, Zlata announces an invitation to live in Italy "because I don't deserve to be here." She fears that transport out of "this cursed town" cannot be arranged. Her parents reflect on a lull in the fighting. They conclude that the future for Sarajevo appears bleak. They near the breaking point in political loyalty to home at the cost of their child's happiness, education, and safety. In the end, they emigrate together.)

8. What do Zlata's final entries reveal?

(On October 14, 1993, Zlata reports an increase in shooting from the "lunatics up in the hills." She misses

her grandparents, who represent another segment of her stolen childhood. Isolated in the apartment, Zlata longs for normal activities — school and music lessons. She complains that her plans to visit Mirna have not materialized.

To Mimmy, the persona of Zlata's diary, she speaks directly: "you're about to go out into the world. You're going to be published abroad." Zlata is aware that "the world wants to know about [war in Sarajevo]." Hopeful that her words can influence international opinions, she bids her diary to "have a good journey into the world." Three days later, the last paragraphs teeter between dismal suffering and hope. Because the previous day cost 6 dead and 56 wounded, Zlata begins to lose touch with the youthful resilience that has kept her going. There looms in her future only "the cellar . . . the cold, dark, stupid cellar which I hate." She pleads "THAT THIS STUPID WAR WOULD END!"

Questions 9 and 10 - Critical Level

9. How is Zlata's writing beneficial to both children and adult readers?

(Zlata is an astute judge of events and circumstances. By beginning her diary with the frivolity and disbelief of a pampered darling, she paves the way for the change that robs her of that glint of life that sparkles in her eyes and plumps her cheeks. More obstacles worsen life in the shell-pocked apartment building. Without water, food, fuel, or heat, Zlata recognizes that the chances for survival slip daily out of her grasp. At some point, her family may die or suffer so severe a wound that they can never be the same.

For adult readers, the personal touch of the final paragraphs compels the heart to pity Zlata. She thinks aloud, "that we're alone in this hell, that nobody is thinking of us, nobody is offering us a helping hand." Her knowledge of reporters and photographers assures her that pictures of Sarajevo's demise appear daily in some parts of the world to prove that "sub-humans want to destroy us." She concludes with her despair at helplessness.)

10. In what ways does Zlata's diary differ from that of Anne Frank?

(Comparisons of suffering tend to try too hard to ally personal reactions and emotions. The similarities between Anne Frank and Zlata Filipovic lie in their lack of freedom, the looming of danger, and the family's struggle to stay alive on meager rations. The differences in the two diarists widen the gulf between situations. Anne, a member of a hunted race, suffers no gunfire and has no inkling that her family's hiding place will be discovered and that she and her sister Margot will shortly die of typhus in a concentration camp. With the war coming rapidly to a close, Anne clings to hope that nothing bad will happen to her.

Zlata, on the other hand, has no assurance that the war will end or that her family can continue to survive bombing, shelling, tension, and deprivation. Ironically, Zlata is more threatened in Sarajevo than Anne is in Amsterdam. Zlata has the choice of fleeing her land and resettling in France. Anne, who might have fled

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earlier before the Nazi takeover, stayed with her parents and hovered over the radio, rejoicing in D-Day and Churchill's speeches. The outcome for both girls epitomizes the whims of war. Anne died in the last days from a contagious disease rather than from Zyklon B. Today, Zlata lives. As bubbly and cheery as in 1991, she makes regular appearances and gives interviews to the press. It appears she will long be with us.)

Questions 11-13 - Creative Level

11. Compose a letter to the United Nations demanding that action be taken to help Bosnian families who are trapped under ethnic cleansing, daily machine gun fire, bombing, and heavy artillery.
12. Create a cover for a history of Sarajevo, particularly the partitioning of Bosnia from Herzegovina. Consider cultural and geographical landmarks as focuses of the art. Compose an appropriate title.
13. Outline a method of living in spite of erratic supplies of water, electricity, postal service, and cooking and heating fuel.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Math and Economics

1. Discuss methods of computing how far artillery shells travel and from what direction. How do ordnance experts determine the explosive power of incoming shells?
2. Using a city map of Sarajevo and a map of Europe, estimate the distance from old Sarajevo to the Filipovics' summer home in Crnotina, Jahorina, the bridge, the hills where the guns and snipers are located, Zlata's grandparents' home, Montenegro, Geneva, Paris, Belgrade, Zagreb, Split, and Dubrovnik.

Social Studies

1. Create a poster praising the work of UNPROFOR. Explain its purpose and the work it does with civilians. Compare UNPROFOR with UNICEF, Caritas, and the Red Cross. Discuss the importance of religious and humanitarian aid to refugees and people trapped in war zones.
2. Compose a brief history of the Bosnian conflict. Why are Serbs, Croats, and Muslims discussed separately? What cultural aspects delineate each group?

Psychology

1. Compose a paragraph in which you define group solidarity. Explain how teachers, relatives, neighbors, friends, pen pals, refugees, reporters, and photographers impinge on Zlata's narrow point of view. Why do close quarters, lack of visits and letters from friends, loss of telephone and electricity, and food shortages depress her? What therapy might help Alica avoid hysteria?
2. Account for Zlata's brief thoughts of suicide. Are such thoughts normal? How do most people overcome loss and despair? What entertainments seem to lift Zlata's depression?
3. Define trauma, post-traumatic shock syndrome, and hysteria. Apply each term to a particular character.

Science and Health

1. Make an oral report on childhood behaviors as they relate to self-esteem and mental health. Stress the role of projects, exercise, games, shared meals and entertainment, school and church clubs, mail, music, television, movies, and supportive friendships.
2. Compose and illustrate a first-aid guide for families under siege. List hidden dangers, especially diseases like hepatitis from impure water, injuries from shrapnel, and infections that result from too many days spent in poor ventilation, improper hygiene, cold, dark, fear, and hunger. Suggest ways to treat frostbite, jaundice, bleeding, sprains, puncture wounds, hernia, and hysteria. What special care should be given infants, the elderly, and stray animals?

Language and Literature

1. Write a diary entry describing Zlata's arrival in Paris. What sights and experiences might she have enjoyed most? What subsequent writings might help her country obtain the world's sympathy and stop the killing? What should Sarajevans do first to rebuild the city?
2. Work with a partner to create a series of analogies based on terms from the novel. For example: shrapnel : Nina :: hernia : Malik. Consider these terms for your list: blue berets, convoy, correspondent, vice premier, Caritas, ciao, MTV, Croat, Serb, Muslim, flak jacket, strudel, dismembered bodies, Marshal Tito, Geneva, Bairam, Republic Day, Olympic Zetra, fascism, B-H, short wave radio, linden tree, PTT, refugee, delusion, wrath, jottings, jerrycan, Audrey Hepburn, invalids, D-Day, Icarus, conditional agreement, and UN.
3. Compose an extended explanation of maturity. Offer proof that Zlata grows wiser and more introspective as the diary progresses.
4. Read aloud from other diaries, including those of Anne Frank, survivors of the Civil War, American pioneers, and the anonymous voice in *Go Ask Alice*. Compare the authors' writing abilities to that of Zlata.
5. Summarize scenes in which details indicate a shift of mood. Account for highs and lows in Zlata's ability to get along and to make rational decisions concerning separating from her parents, warmth, nutrition, first aid, group solidarity, friendships, and danger.

Art

1. Draw a collage depicting Zlata's pre-war and war-time interests. Stress mail and telephone calls and their value to her state of mind.
2. Make a mural of significant scenes from the diary. Include the closing of school, piano practice, chasing the mouse, crossing the bridge, celebrating birthdays, skiing in the mountains, bidding farewell to friends and relatives on the convoys, reuniting with grandparents, and interviews with journalists and photographers.
3. Using names from the list on pp. xvi-xvii, create a family tree and a character web to express Zlata's closest and most supportive relationships.
4. Using a Venn Diagram [two interlocking circles], reveal what aggressors and victims have in common and areas of disagreement.

ZLATA'S DIARY

Music

1. Listen to recorded music that suggests the many moods that assail Zlata, especially apprehension, celebration, hope, frustration, doubt, affection, despair, longing, humor, and acceptance. Some possibilities include Franz Schubert's folk songs, Johann Brahms's *Liebeslieder* waltzes, and Edward MacDowell's *Woodland Sketches*.
2. Compose a school song to boost spirit and unity. Write two contrasting stanzas. Select music to uplift and encourage.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Relate the following literary terms to *Zlata's Diary*: simile, contrast, milieu, flat and round characters, setting, dialogue, conflict, atmosphere, mood, motivation, rising action, epistle, theme, dilemma, mythological allusion, humor, first person narrative, persona, slang, acronym, and tone.
2. Lead a discussion of adult responsibilities to children, particularly those suffering from death of parents, separation from homeland, loss, poor health or war wounds, boredom, fear, uprooting, low self-esteem, physical threat, cold, and hunger. Does Zlata profit from her parents' concealment of local politics and other adult worries? What might she need to know about the war in order to cope better with its effects on her homeland and family, such as the family's financial status, offers of evacuation to other countries, Braco's wound, the destruction of her school, or the loss of Alica's office?
3. Contrast Zlata's daring with similar situations in literature, particularly Esther Hautzig's *The Endless Steppe*, Yoko Kawashima Watkins's *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, Avi's *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's *Farewell to Manzanar*, Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, Conrad Richter's *A Light in the Forest*, Scott Momaday's *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, Scott O'Dell's *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Theodore Taylor's *The Cay*, Gary Paulsen's *Nightjohn*, and Elie Wiesel's *Night*. Read aloud sections of Zlata's journal that contain the most action.
4. Record student reactions to the keeping of pets during the siege. Why does the Filipovic family worry about their canary and about stray dogs and cats? Why do they create a tiled grave for Cicko? Why do they share with animals scraps of their meager food supplies?
5. Create a scenario in which interviewers ask Zlata about her friends and relatives who were killed or injured during the shelling. Ask specific questions about funerals and burial. Discuss the appropriateness of such personal questions.
6. Write a televised interview with an interpreter. Conclude how this career might appeal to someone like Zlata, who is adept at language, has lived in a war zone, and knows the pitfalls of evacuation under siege. What situations, other than war, call for quality translation, such as peace accords, radio broadcasts, translations of books and movie scripts, and telegraphy?
7. Role-play Zlata's gradual recognition of the danger her family faces. Why is Zlata obsessed with play, as with sleep-overs, Barbie dolls, rollerskating, listening to Michael Jackson records, watching MTV, eating pizza and lasagna, and cutting out pictures from newspapers?
8. Lead a debate concerning the difference between patriotism and racism. How can Serbs, Croats, and Muslims love the same land and hate each other?
9. Create a database of facts, figures, and maps of countries in the world that have suffered internal political unrest, revolution, attack, famine, epidemic, or mass emigration over the last decades. For example, mention Haiti, Iraq, Vietnam, Cuba, East Germany, Rwanda, South Africa, Somalia, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and Bosnia. Include names of relief agencies that supply food, water, medical support, and shelter.
10. Compose a letter to Zlata. Invite her family to settle in your area. Name the activities you and your friends enjoy that parallel Sarajevo's lifestyle. Tell her how your friends celebrate birthdays and holidays.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Make a list of scenes from the novel that express contrasting attitudes toward friendship, self-esteem, loss, responsibility, understanding, justice, education, fear, family love, parenthood, insecurity, and hope. Next to each, indicate what you think is Zlata's personal philosophy.
2. Compose brief definitions of courage as they apply to Alica, Malik, Zlata, Nedo, Uncle Braco, UNPROFOR, journalists, Mirna, food vendors, Zlata's grandparents, and the music teacher.
3. List and describe scenes that depict conflict, particularly the destruction of the window near Zlata, looting, failed peace conferences in Geneva, ethnic cleansing, sending school children home, the Filipovic family's sore throats, the murder of a woman crossing the bridge, the burning of the post office and Zetra Hall, Nina's death, Zlata's visions of suicide, Malik's injured hand, and Zlata's wish for peace and a normal childhood.
4. Compose a scene in which Zlata looks back on Sarajevo and sees how much damage it has sustained. What is her reaction? What do her parents think about the numerous deaths and ruined homes and buildings?
5. Make a thorough list of items essential to a movie version of the diary, for instance bird cage, Yahtzee, telephone, diary, mail, wood stove, furniture, blue helmets, piano, bandages, jerrycans, novel by Jules Verne, Caritas packets, television, skis, feta cheese, spaghetti, shattered glass, bombs, shrapnel, mouse, chocolate, dismembered bodies, cherries, and electric saw.

RELATED READING

Avi's *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Esther Hautzig's *The Endless Steppe*
Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's *Farewell to Manzanar*
Scott Momaday's *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
Scott O'Dell's *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and *Sing Down the Moon*
Gary Paulsen's *Nightjohn*
Conrad Richter's *A Light in the Forest*
Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*

ZLATA'S DIARY

Theodore Taylor's *The Cay*
Yoko Kawashima Watkins's *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*
Elie Wiesel's *Night*

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ZLATA'S DIARY

VOCABULARY TEST

From the list that follows, select a word to fill in the blanks in this passage written by journalist Janine Di Giovanni as part of the diary's introduction. Use capital letters for proper nouns and adjectives or words beginning a sentence. You will have answers left over when you finish:

artillery
celebrity
comprehend
cowering
Deutsche

disbelief
division
eerily
ethnic
flak

gloom
humanitarian
impact
issues
mutilation

ravaged
rubble
shrapnel
stress
syndrome

Life changed quickly in the spring of 1992. Within a couple of months of Zlata's first diary entry, Serbian

(1) **gun** _____ positions were set up on the hills directly above her house and the family had to move all their possessions into the front room, which was protected from (2) **fragments** _____ by sandbags. Soon, there were no more windows left in Zlata's apartment: they were all blown out by the (3) **force** _____ of shells. At that point, Bosnians who could leave the city fled; others refused to go, not really believing that their city would be reduced to (4) **debris** _____. Zlata watched with (5) **incredulity** _____ as her friends and relatives tried desperately to flee before it was too late. "I'm all alone here," she wrote.

Over the next few months, Zlata watched her world fall apart. She could not (6) **understand** _____ the (7) **causes** _____ that had become all-important: (8) **race** _____ cleansing, the Geneva talks, Lord Owen and the (9) **partitioning** _____ of Bosnia. She could only comprehend that nothing was the same and nothing would ever be the same again. Her father, a lawyer whose office was next door to their apartment, stopped working, but (10) **strangely** _____, the sign remained on the door which was littered with shrapnel. Her mother, a chemist, began to slip into a state of (11) **depression** _____ and despair as the family spent day after day (12) **crouching** _____ in the cellar while heavy artillery (13) **destroyed** _____ Sarajevo. Supplies ran low and then became nonexistent. The electricity was cut, the phone went dead, water stopped running from the taps. Food consisted of (14) **benevolent** _____ aid packages: tasteless white feta cheese, the occasional loaf of bread if you waited long enough in line and were brave enough to face the shelling, the occasional can of meat bought on the black market for 50 (15) **German** _____ Marks. There was no water to take a bath or flush a toilet. The only way to get it was to stand in a water line under frequent shell-fire.

ZLATA'S DIARY

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Identification (30 points)

Identify names and places described below. Choose from the list that follows:

Alexandra	Bosnia	Crnotina	Malik	Otes
Alica	Caritas	Eldin	Mirna	Sarajevo
Amsterdam	Cici	Fipa	Mladjo	Uncle Braco
Anne Frank	Cicko	Halim	Montenegro	UNPROFOR
Auntie Mika	Croatia	Herzegovina	Nedo	Zetra Hall

- _____ 1. has been the home of the Filipovic family since 1973.
- _____ 2. is the famed Jewish diarist of World War II.
- _____ 3. teaches English to Zlata.
- _____ 4. is Zlata's uncle, who dies from stress.
- _____ 5. is a refugee who leaves Sarajevo and writes to Zlata of his copy of the diary.
- _____ 6. walks daily to a new office.
- _____ 7. is the location of the Filipovics' country house.
- _____ 8. dies in front of his house.
- _____ 9. is a member of Zlata's drama club who dies from shrapnel wounds.
- _____ 10. is a relic of the Olympic games which burns.
- _____ 11. is a Catholic humanitarian organization that ships parcels.
- _____ 12. is buried under tiles.
- _____ 13. flees on foot the destruction of the Otes section.
- _____ 14. is a reporter who befriends Zlata.
- _____ 15. cuts a hand while sawing wood.

Part II: True/False (20 points)

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

- _____ 1. The Filipovics cut short their skiing vacation on Jahorina because shelling destroys Alica's office.
- _____ 2. At the music school, Zlata poses for pictures with Janine and Alexandra.
- _____ 3. Nina dies from a shrapnel wound to the skull.
- _____ 4. Malik, an attorney, maintains an office next door to the family's apartment building.
- _____ 5. Zlata receives five copies of her journal with her picture on the cover.
- _____ 6. Zlata looks back on May 2, 1992, as her worst day.
- _____ 7. Malik and Alica refuse to chop wood furniture into stove lengths.
- _____ 8. The hall used for Olympic games collapses from shelling.
- _____ 9. To combat the water shortage, Zlata asks Caritas to help.
- _____ 10. Sarajevans begin to label individuals as Serb, Croat, or Muslim.
- _____ 11. Zlata is delighted that the music school reopens.
- _____ 12. A sore throat postpones celebration of Zlata's eleventh birthday.
- _____ 13. Zlata has an opportunity to leave town without her parents, but the family decides against separating.
- _____ 14. Artillery blasts destroy all radio communication.
- _____ 15. After Sarajevo is destroyed, the military moves to Dubrovnik and begins shelling the city.

ZLATA'S DIARY

Part III: Completion (20 points)

Complete each quotation below with a word or phrase.

1. Zlata and her parents mourn the death of _____, whom they have had for seven years.
2. On January 9, the vice _____ is killed.
3. The reporters are impressed by how well Zlata speaks _____.
4. Both cemeteries and _____ are too full to receive more corpses.
5. Zlata wishes she had wings like _____ so she could fly away.
6. After the New Year, peace talks begin in _____.
7. Alica does not have the family's documents together and misses an opportunity to leave with a departing _____.
8. When the _____ section is destroyed, Uncle Braco runs to escape.
9. Zlata's nickname is _____.
10. Zlata's nickname for the enemy is _____.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Select two and answer in paragraph form.

1. Explain why Zlata likes keeping a diary.
2. Discuss how life changes for Zlata's neighborhood after the shelling begins.
3. Describe times when Zlata and her parents are in the most danger.
4. Compare Nedo and Mirna as friends to Zlata.

ZLATA'S DIARY

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Short Answer (30 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to the following questions.

- _____ 1. What chemist's office is destroyed?
- _____ 2. To what World War II war victim does Zlata compare herself?
- _____ 3. What group sends packages to Srdjan?
- _____ 4. What monetary unit is most acceptable to black marketers?
- _____ 5. What official is kidnapped?
- _____ 6. Which of Zlata's relatives is severely injured in the leg?
- _____ 7. In what city does the family's country house burn?
- _____ 8. What stops Malik from carrying water?
- _____ 9. Who is Mimmy?
- _____ 10. What two friends of Zlata's are killed by shrapnel?
- _____ 11. What agency puts on a Christmas show?
- _____ 12. What does Cicko need?
- _____ 13. What method of suicide does Zlata consider?
- _____ 14. Who reports that he has a copy of the diary?
- _____ 15. From what American state does a pen pal write?

Part II: Character Analysis (20 points)

Place an X beside each statement that is true of Zlata.

- _____ 1. sees her grandparents every day during the shelling.
- _____ 2. becomes bored and depressed.
- _____ 3. sends food packets to Nedo in Dubrovnik.
- _____ 4. learns that her diary is about to be published in Europe.
- _____ 5. gets frostbite from cutting wood.
- _____ 6. worries that her mother is in the post office when it burns.
- _____ 7. calls the enemy "kids."
- _____ 8. departs Sarajevo aboard a Jewish convoy.
- _____ 9. learns that Safia died while playing in Zetra Hall.
- _____ 10. recognizes the blue berets as UN peacekeepers.

ZLATA'S DIARY

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline the word or phrase that will complete each statement below.

1. Next door to the apartment building that the Filipovics have occupied for twenty years is (Auntie Mika's English school, the music teacher, an attorney's office, a group of French reporters).
2. Malik is called up for (police reserves, medical training, evacuation, a private school for Zlata and Mirna).
3. Caritas is a (French photographer, relief agency, building where the Olympics were held, family friend in Dubrovnik).
4. Uncle Halim (helps saw furniture into firewood, dies of stress, crosses the bridge to check on Zlata's grandparents, gets a new office).
5. The Filipovics share their (jerrycan, short wave radio, Michael Jackson records, wood stove).
6. Zlata notices (ethnic labels on people, fewer birds in the trees, her Uncle Halim's weight loss, Nedo's girlfriend among the refugees).
7. Both Cici and (Nedo, Mirna, Cicko, Fipa) die during the war.
8. Sarajevo begins to resemble (a war zone, UN headquarters, Dubrovnik, a homeless shelter).
9. Mladjo (helps Zlata pick cherries, brings Christmas trees for the apartment, dies in front of his home, comes to the lobby to rollerskate with Zlata and her friends).
10. The UN sends (a copy of "The Sarajevo Prayer," anti-fascist propaganda, soap and detergent, letters from a boy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania).

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Select two and answer in paragraph form.

1. Account for Alica's nervousness and crying.
2. Describe the camaraderie among neighbors.
3. Discuss why Mimmy appeals to people in other countries.
4. Explain what the introduction adds to an understanding of the diary.

ZLATA'S DIARY

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. artillery | 9. division |
| 2. shrapnel | 10. eerily |
| 3. impact | 11. gloom |
| 4. rubble | 12. cowering |
| 5. disbelief | 13. ravaged |
| 6. comprehend | 14. humanitarian |
| 7. issues | 15. Deutsche |
| 8. ethnic | |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Identification (30 points)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Sarajevo | 9. Eldin |
| 2. Anne Frank | 10. Zetra Hall |
| 3. Auntie Mika | 11. Caritas |
| 4. Halim | 12. Cicko |
| 5. Nedo | 13. Uncle Braco |
| 6. Alica | 14. Alexandra |
| 7. Crnotina | 15. Malik |
| 8. Mladjo | |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 9. F |
| 2. F | 10. T |
| 3. T | 11. T |
| 4. T | 12. T |
| 5. T | 13. T |
| 6. T | 14. F |
| 7. F | 15. F |
| 8. F | |

Part III: Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. Cicko | 6. Geneva |
| 2. premier | 7. convoy |
| 3. English | 8. Otes |
| 4. parks | 9. Fipa |
| 5. Icarus | 10. kids |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Short Answer (30 points)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Alica | 9. Zlata's diary |
| 2. Anne Frank | 10. Nina, Eldin |
| 3. Caritas | 11. UNPROFOR |
| 4. Deutsche Mark | 12. bird food |
| 5. Bosnian president | 13. hanging |
| 6. Braco | 14. Nedo |
| 7. Crnotina | 15. Pennsylvania |
| 8. hernia | |

Part II: Character Analysis (20 points)

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

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- an attorney's office
- police reserves
- relief agency
- dies of stress
- wood stove
- ethnic labels on people
- Cicko
- a war zone
- dies in front of his home
- soap and detergent

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

TEACHER'S NOTES



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