

8th Grade Language Arts
Summer Reading-Ms. Jenn's Class
Resistance
By Jennifer A. Nielsen

Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Simply being Jewish places her in danger of being killed or sent to the camps. After her little sister is taken away, her younger brother disappears, and her parents all but give up hope, Chaya is determined to make a difference. Using forged papers and her fair features, Chaya becomes a courier and travels between the Jewish ghettos of Poland, smuggling food, papers, and even people. Soon Chaya joins a resistance cell that runs raids on the Nazis' supplies. But after a mission goes terribly wrong, Chaya's network shatters. She is alone and unsure of where to go, until Esther, a member of her cell, finds her and delivers a message that chills Chaya to her core, and sends her on a journey toward an even larger uprising in the works -- in the Warsaw Ghetto. Though the Jewish resistance never had much of a chance against the Nazis, they were determined to save as many lives as possible, and to live -- or die -- with honor. —amazon.com

After reading *Resistance* please complete the entire packet. It consists of vocabulary and comprehension questions. Please complete your answers in Google Docs. It will be collected Tuesday, September 5, 2023 (Tuesday after Labor Day). No late work will be accepted!!

I suggest you look over the questions prior to reading the story and answer them as you finish each chapter. We will discuss the story when we get back to school. There will be a small assessment on the book when we return to school.

Have a great summer! See you in the fall.

-Ms. Jenn

Resistance
By Jennifer A. Nielsen

PART ONE:

Chapter One:
October 5, 1942
Tarnow Ghetto, Southern Poland

Chapter One Vocabulary

Directions: before reading the chapter look up the following vocabulary words and their meanings. they will be an important part of understanding the text.

1. Aryan
2. Courier
3. Martyr

Chapter One Comprehension Questions

1. Explain how isolation can give a person power.
2. Why was Helena handing out potatoes to the children instead of to the adults? Why was this thought to be safer?
3. The main character's real name is Chaya meaning life and her chosen resistance name is Helena meaning grace. Do you think that the author purposely chose these names for the character? What role will this character play for the people in her community throughout the book?

PART ONE, CHAPTER ONE:

Historical spotlight: History of Jewish Ghettos

The first Jewish ghettos began in 1516 in the Italian city of Venice. They were not walled sections of the city with neighborhoods where Jewish citizens were designated to live and run their businesses out of. The ghetto in Venice at the time did not have the negative connotation the Nazis turned it into. At the time the Venetian Jewish community petitioned the Senate for their own area of the city. While having always been allowed to operate businesses in the city, Jewish merchants were not given permanent residency status until the quarter was created. The word ghetto itself came from the name of a copper foundry that the neighborhood was built around.

Jewish citizens moved from all over Europe to live in the Venetian Ghetto. It became a world renowned cultural hub, whose doctors were in high demand. At one point living space in the neighborhood was in such high demand that builders began building upwards. The Venetian ghetto, it is often joked, had the world's first skyscrapers.

Over the next 200 years nearly every major European capital had created a Jewish quarter. By the end of the 1800's though this idea of a segregated area had fallen back out of favor. With most Jewish citizens living spread throughout the city. It was not until 1940 and the German take over of Poland that Jewish citizens were forced back into the ghettos, this time for an extremely dark purpose. At the height of their power it is estimated that Germans were running 1,100 ghettos throughout the European continent.

4. Explain how the ghettos the Germans used were different from the previous use of ghettos throughout history.

PART ONE:

Chapter Two:

September 1, 1939-April 22, 1941

Krakow, Poland

Chapter Two Vocabulary

1. Rabbi
2. Judenrat

Chapter Two Comprehension Questions

5. Compare and contrast the three separate lives that Chaya has said she lived.
6. On page 11, Chaya is given the advice, “Learn not to see anything, or to be seen.” How is this advice going to be helpful to Chaya?
7. How could Chaya helping her father have made it worse for both herself and him?
8. Describe Chaya’s second life.
9. Where would Chaya have ended up if she had not fled?

Articles on Holocaust Badges

Directions: Read through each of the two short articles below from the Holocaust Memorial Center and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Then answer the questions to get a deeper understanding of what was going on.

“Jewish Stars and Other Holocaust Badges”

<https://www.holocaustcenter.org/visit/library-archive/holocaust-badges/>

10. When were Jewish citizens first forced to wear badges in Europe? When did the Germans start making them wear them?

11. In what German occupied country did Jewish citizens not have to wear the badge? And, what was the reason behind this?

“Classification System in Nazi Concentration Camps”

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/classification-system-in-nazi-concentration-camps>

12. Describe the marking system in the concentration camps.

13. List groups other than the Jews, who had to wear badges.

Cultural Background: Importance of Beards in the Jewish Faith



(New York Orthodox Jewish Man, 1913)

It is mainly seen nowadays in the Orthodox or Hasidic Jewish communities that still wear beards. The practice of men wearing beards dates back to the earliest days of the religion as it is written in the religious text, the Torah, in Leviticus 19:27. Traditionally, men were not allowed to shave their beard completely with a razor blade. As time went on they would be allowed to trim them with scissors, and in more modern times the electric razor has been deemed okay.

Beards traditionally were also a sign of maturity for males in the Jewish community. The act of shaving the beards can be seen as a sign of mourning. In ancient times the shaving of the beard could also mean that the man was very sick. The act of shaving was thought to be getting rid of whatever was causing the body an illness.

14. How do you think that the Nazis used the importance of the beard against the men of the Jewish faith? What do you think the effects were on the men in the community?

Part One

Chapter Three

April 25, 1941- October 5, 1942

Kopaliny Farm, Poland

Chapter Three Comprehension Questions

15. Describe how Chaya enters her third life. What steps did she have to take in order to achieve this new life?

16. What are some reasons people might try to hide their identity? Is this something that people still struggle with today? Can you think of an example of where someone in current times might need to hide their identity?

17. On page 21 Gusta gives the resistance group members a choice, “ Let’s be clear. Any decision we make will end in our deaths. If we do nothing, if we wait here, it’s only a matter of time before the Germans come for us and put us on the same trains.” If you were in the resistance fighters' place what choice would you have made? Wait for the Germans to come for you? Or go down fighting? Explain your answer.

18. On page 22, Chaya gives us insight into her motivation for many of her actions. “ I wanted revenge for every single Jew who had already fallen, and a change to save the life of every Jew still standing.” Can a regular person make a difference? Do you think that Chaya will be able to make the impact that she so wants?

Part One

Chapter Four

October 5th, 1942

Tarnow Ghetto

Chapter Four Comprehension Questions

19. In this chapter it is mentioned multiple times that “information was a dangerous currency.” How can information be dangerous? Why is knowing things both powerful and dangerous?
20. Chaya and Fishel leave the little boy on page 26. What would you have done in their position? Leave the little boy or try to help him? Explain your reasoning.
21. What is the package that Chaya will be picking up?
22. Will the baby have a better life?
23. How did Chaya escape the ghetto?

Part One

Chapter Five

October 12th, 1942

Podgorze Ghetto, Krakow

Chapter Five Comprehension Questions

24. What do you think of moving the resistance into the Krakow Ghetto? Will they be able to continue their plans? What are some of the risks?

“Robbing her of hope would’ve been almost as cruel as the Nazis had been to rob her of her children.”

-----Chaya, page 38

25. Why won’t Chaya’s parents take the new identity?
26. Compare and contrast Chaya and her parent’s relationship pre-war to now. How have these changes put a strain on their relationship?

Part One

Chapter Six

October 20, 1942

Bochnia Countryside

Chapter Six Comprehension Questions

27. In your opinion, who had the most dangerous job? Which job would have taken? Why?

28. Was Chaya disappointed? What do you think would have made her feel successful?

29. List what they got in the raid.

Part One

Chapter Seven

October 26, 1942

Krakow

Chapter Seven Comprehension Questions

30. Why do you think Rubin brought Esther into the resistance? Will she be a liability or not?

31. “ *How many Jews were murdered that day? Did they ever discuss that?*”

-----*Chaya, page 49*

Chaya thinks this while watching the German soldiers stand around. Try to answer the questions that Chaya poses. Did the regular German soldier sit and think about how many people were dying each day? Do you think they talked about it around each other? Give your opinion and reasoning for it.

32. Chaya’s last words to Esther were, “ Don’t ever ask me to trust you again.” Was this fair? Why or why not? Could this be foreshadowing. Explain your answer.

Part One

Chapter Eight

November 20, 1942

Akiva Bunker, Krakow

Chapter Eight Vocabulary

1. Shabbat

Chapter Eight Comprehension Questions

“Never let it be said that the young are powerless or incapable. Never let it be said that youth is a liability.”

-----Shimshon, page 57

33. How are we seeing in today's modern climate of cultural change that the young are powerful and helping change things? Can you give some real-world examples of young people trying to make big changes in our modern society?

Part One

Chapter Nine

December 22, 1942

Cyganeria Cafe, Krakow

Chapter Nine Comprehension Questions

34. Explain why this specific time was chosen to attack the cafe. In your opinion was this a good idea or bad one?

35. In what ways do you think shooting the soldier in the trainyard affected Chaya?

36. In your opinion, does it sound like the attack was successful or not? Explain your answer.

37. Predict: Is Chaya the only one left or did others escape?

Chapter Ten

February 13-14, 1943

Akiva

Chapter Ten Comprehension Questions

38. In your opinion, who do you think survived the attacks? And where did they end up?

Part One

Chapter Eleven

February 14, 1943

Podgorze Ghetto, Krakow

Chapter Eleven Comprehension Questions

39. Would you have taken the risk Chaya did to see your family one last time? Why or why not?

40. Describe the dynamic between Chaya and her parents in this chapter.

Part One

Chapter Twelve

February 15, 1943

Old Town Krakow

Chapter Twelve Comprehension Questions

41. Do you think Chaya should trust Esther? Why or why not?
42. Why do you think Chaya reacts the way that she does to Esther? Is it fair?

Chapter Thirteen

February 15, 1943

Train to Lodz

Chapter Thirteen Comprehension Questions

"Would I abandon her if that was the only way to save my life?"

-----Chaya about Esther, page 97

43. Do you think she would abandon her? What would you do if you were Chaya and it could mean your life or death to abandon Esther?
44. Who is at fault for what happened on the train?
45. Explain what the point of the resistance is according to each of the girls. Which do you feel was the more accurate definition and why?

Chapter Fourteen

February 15th-16th, 1943

Lodz

Chapter Fourteen Comprehension Questions

46. Explain what Chaya sews into the inside of Esther's hem. What is the significance of it?

47. Why do you think that the resistance finally decided to send a group in the Lodz Ghetto after avoiding it for so long?

Part Two

Chapter Fifteen
February 16, 1943
Lodz Ghetto

Chapter Fifteen Comprehension Questions

48. Explain the situation with the man.

Chapter Sixteen Comprehension Questions

49. Write your first impression of the Lodz ghetto.

Part Two

Chapter Seventeen
February 16, 1943
Lodz Ghetto

Chapter Seventeen Comprehension Questions

50. Describe Sara, Avarham, and Henryk.

Chapter Eighteen
February 16, 1943
Lodz Ghetto

Chapter Eighteen Comprehension Questions

“Ignoring the guilt, for trying to live while others around me were dying.”

-----Chaya, page 44

51. Describe why Chaya might feel guilty. Do you think that she is right to feel guilty? How would you have felt in her position?

52. What would you have done in the girls' position? Give yourself up so innocent people would not be killed? Or try and escape with your life? What is your reasoning for your choice?

Chapter Nineteen
February 16, 1943
Lodz Ghetto

Chapter Nineteen Comprehension Questions

“Why did you have to tell the Germans about those girls?”

“The Aktion is a mercy compared to what’s coming...”

-----Soldiers, page 151

53. Do the officers seem to be showing regret or remorse for their actions?
54. Why do you think the officer let them escape?

Part Two

Chapter Twenty
February 17, 1943
Lodz

Chapter Twenty Comprehension Questions

55. Describe the plan to get to Warsaw.
56. Do you think she will ever be able to be herself again? Or has the war changed her too much? Explain.
57. Are what the girls doing as bad as the Nazis? Or is what they are doing morally correct? Explain.

Chapter Twenty-One
February 18, 1943
Road near Brzeziny

Chapter Twenty-One Comprehension Questions

58. List some of the issues the girls will have to overcome on their journey to Warsaw.

Part Two

Chapter Twenty-Two

February 18, 1943

Road near Kolacin

Chapter Twenty-Two Comprehension Questions

59. Describe the three types of Polish citizens discussed in this chapter.
60. What gave Chaya hope for the future?

Chapter Twenty-Three

February 18, 1943

Road to Warsaw

Chapter Twenty-Three Comprehension Questions

“If we have no other choice, then let us be proud criminals, honorable criminals and criminals who will die one day knowing that we did everything we could to disrupt the peace.”

-----Chaya, page 180

61. What makes someone an honorable criminal? Is there such a thing?

Part Two

Chapter Twenty-Four

February 19, 1943

Road to Warsaw

Chapter Twenty-Four Comprehension Questions

62. Should Chaya have felt guilty about eating the chocolate or allowed herself this one pleasure?

63. Compare and contrast Chaya and Esther's relationship from when they first met to now.

Part Two

Chapter Twenty-Five

February 19, 1943

Road to Warsaw

Chapter Twenty-Five Comprehension Questions

64. What is Esther not telling Chaya?

65. Why do you think Esther sacrificed herself?

Chapter Twenty-Six

February 20, 1943

Road to Skierniewice

Chapter Twenty-Six Comprehension Questions

66. List the rules of the resistance.

67. What would you have done if you were Chaya? Go after Esther or continue on to Warsaw? Why?

Part Two

Chapter Twenty-Seven

February 20, 1943

Skierniewice

Chapter Twenty-Seven Comprehension Questions

68. Do you think the doctor could have done more to save Esther?

69. Describe how Chaya helped Esther escape. What do you think the consequences of Chaya's plan are?

Chapter Twenty-Eight

February 20, 1943

Bolimowski Park

Chapter Twenty-Eight Comprehension Questions

70. Detail how Chaya and Esther escape.

Chapter Twenty-Nine
February 20, 1943
Bolimowski Park

Chapter Twenty-Nine Comprehension Questions

71. Explain how Nazis murdered the Jewish people many times over as the girls described on page 228.
72. Identify what each girl hopes for at the end of this war.

Chapter Thirty
February 20, 1943
Bolimowski Park

Chapter Thirty Comprehension Questions

73. Why were the people in the forest?
74. Describe the relationship between Chaya and Reuben.

Part Three

Chapter Thirty-One
February 21, 1943
Road to Warsaw

Chapter Thirty-One Comprehension Questions

75. Describe how Warsaw has changed from the last time that Chaya was there.
76. What is the truth behind Esther's story?
77. Esther's father sacrificed others to save the only child that he had left. What would you have done in his position? Explain your reasoning.

Part Three

Chapter Thirty-Two
February 22, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Two Comprehension Questions

78. Describe how "the Wild" was worse than the Ghetto.
79. Explain why people had not used the tunnels to escape the Ghetto.

Part Three

Chapter Thirty-Three

March 1, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Three Comprehension Questions

80. In Chaya's opinion, why had Akiva failed in Krakow? Do you agree with her assessment? Why or why not? Give your own assessment of their success or failure.

81. Write what your definition of failure is.

Chapter Thirty-Four

March 1, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Four Comprehension Questions

82. Detail what had happened to Yitzchak after he disappeared.

Part Three

Chapter Thirty-Five

March 13, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Five Comprehension Questions

83. What package could Esther have that was such a secret?

Chapter Thirty-Six

April 18, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Six Comprehension Questions

84. Look up what Passover is in the Jewish religion. Summarize what it is and its importance below.

85. Do you think the Nazis purposely chose to do a final battle against the Jews of the ghetto the night before Passover? Was it symbolic in their minds?

86. In a paragraph explain the symbolism of Passover and the idea of the Last Supper in this chapter. How is it both religious and literal?

Part Three

Chapter Thirty-Seven

April 19, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Seven Comprehension Questions

87. How did the resistance exploit some of the German army's weaknesses?

88. Do you think the German foot soldiers willingly chose to come fight against the Jews or were they made to? What evidence in the text is there to support your opinion?

Chapter Thirty-Eight

April 19, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Eight Comprehension Questions

"A choiceless choice...there is no winning only a decision as to how we will lose."

-----Chaya, page 296

89. Can you think of a real life example of a choiceless choice? Explain what it would be.

Chapter Thirty-Nine

April 19, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Thirty-Nine Comprehension Questions

90. Describe what Chaya sees going on beyond the walls of the ghetto.

91. Explain how they are finally free.

92. What is the symbolism of the Polish and Jewish flags being raised together?

Chapter Forty
April 20, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty Comprehension Questions

93. List and describe the choiceless choices must the Jewish fighters make in this chapter.

94. Who would you have saved in their position?

“How could the Nazis still have not had enough death?”

-----Chaya, page 319

95. Attempt to answer Chaya’s question.

Chapter Forty- One
April 20, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-One Comprehension Questions

96. List the major flaws in the uprisings plan.

Chapter Forty-Two
April 21, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-Two Comprehension Questions

“ We know what is happening there, but we also know you are dying as heroes. For everyone of you that falls, we will take revenge.”

-----BBC Message from the Allies, pages 330-331

97. Why were the Allies so inactive in helping the Jews in Europe?

Chapter Forty-Three
April 22, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-Three Comprehension Questions

98. If you were Chaya would you have stayed hidden in the bunker or gone back out to fight?

99. Explain why the author chose to add in the description about the carousel? What emotions did it bring out in the reader?

Chapter Forty-Four
April 23, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-Four Comprehension Questions

100. Do you believe the Polish underground purposely sold them defective weapons?

101. What do you think keeps the Resistance fighting even when it feels like hope is lost?

Chapter Forty-Five
April 24, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-Five Comprehension Questions

102. How has Chaya's training as a courier helped her survive up to this point?

Chapter Forty-Six
April 24, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-Six Comprehension Questions

103. In your opinion, what should Chaya's next move be? What would you have done?

Chapter Forty-Seven
April 25, 1943
Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-Seven Comprehension Questions

104. What was the package that Esther had to deliver? How will it help the fighters

Chapter Forty-Eight

April 25, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto

Chapter Forty-Eight Comprehension Questions

"Last time I was here, it cost people their lives. Now I am here to save lives."

-----*Esther, page 364*

105. Is Esther trying to make up for what her father did? How?

106. What do you think Chaya's parents would think of her and Yitzak now?

Chapter Forty-Nine Comprehension Questions

"I have seen too much of a war that reveals people for who they are...We got our three lines of history."

-----*Chaya, 371*

107. Explain how they got their three lines of history.

