

Connecting Our Stories to Your World

By Flora Lee Ganzler and Kate McGerity, from *Inheritance of Memory: Holocaust Survivors and Their Children Share Their Stories*, compiled and edited by John Kornfeld (Mango Moon Media). Formatted for printing and classroom projection.

Your Personal Responses to the Stories

1. Which of these survival stories particularly touched your heart? Discuss your reasons for choosing this story.
2. Many of the children of survivors who shared their parents' stories went to great lengths to learn about their family stories. Do you feel that learning one's family story is important? If so, what could you do to learn more about your own family history?
3. The title of this anthology, *Inheritance of Memory*, can mean different things to different people. After reading one or more of our stories, what does the title mean to you?
4. What value do you see to reading these stories? What do survivors' memories teach you that you can apply to your life, community, and country in the 21st century?

Connecting the Stories to Today's World

5. Discuss the actions of upstanders in some of our stories. What might an upstander look like today in a school setting, a community, our country, and/or the world?
6. What are the potential risks and benefits of being an upstander? Do you consider it worth the risks to be an upstander?
7. What similarities and differences do you see between these stories and immigrant experiences in the 21st century?
8. Compare acts of discrimination in our stories to acts of discrimination in today's world.
9. The phrase "Never Again" can be interpreted in different ways. What does "Never Again" mean to you?

Considering the Lasting Impact on Survivors

10. Why do you think so many of the survivors in these stories chose to deny their birth identities by changing their names, ignoring their religious backgrounds, or not sharing their survival stories with their children?
11. Fear of capture and deportation, and survivors' efforts to avoid capture, dominates most of these survivor stories. What impact do you think this fear had on these survivors, even after the danger had been eliminated?

Analyzing the Stories in This Anthology

12. Although each survivor story is unique, there are also some elements that recur in many stories. What do these commonalities tell you, in general, about what survivors went through to escape Nazi persecution?
13. Choose a story and discuss its title. What does the title tell you about the survivor's experience in the story?
14. Compare the three main sections of this anthology. How do you interpret each section title, and what does it tell you about this group of survivor stories?
15. Choose five words in the glossary that were new to you and discuss how they relate to specific survivors' stories.
16. Spend a few minutes tracing the survivors' journeys on the maps in the book — or on the interactive maps at book.holocauststoryproject.org. What thoughts and feelings do they evoke about survivors' journeys from fear to safety?

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