

Questions for Weekly IMAGES Readings

As each IMAGES selection of literature is read you should be prepared to write a response to the following questions. Where there are multiple questions about the same selection you must answer each one as they are often connected in some way. Length is not as important as content here. No need to be very lengthy but make sure you address each point in the questions fully. These are all due on Thursdays as your weekly assignment schedule shows. All responses are word processed with the formal Valencia heading required. Spelling, punctuation, grammar and format will all count.

Why Remember

Write an initial response to the question posed by the title or the selection, "Why Remember?" As you read other selections in this anthology, add to and revise your initial response. On page 6, Meltzer asks the question, Can it (the Holocaust) be understood by those who have come after? What do you think about this issue?

The Roots

When, and under what conditions, did the term anti-Semitism appear for the first time? What was significant about this new term? How did Hitler use the historical tradition of anti-Semitism to establish his power?

They Wanted Everyone to Know

Select one of the acts of persecution against the Jews in Germany. Imagine that you were living during that time witnessed what occurred. Protest the action by writing either a newspaper editorial or a letter to the editor.

Before the Storm

What were the factors that Plant (the author) identify as contributing to the unrest in Germany after WW I? How were the Nazis able to use the postwar social unrest to its advantage?

Kristallnacht

Kristallnacht was both physically and psychologically destructive. Describe the psychological terror such an event could produce. Why do you think that the events of Kristallnacht had such a far reaching impact on the fate of the Jewish people in Germany and then later in the countries occupied by Germany?

They Had a System

Look up the literary term "irony." Now fully describe how irony is used throughout the poem. Be specific. Is the title a form of "irony"?

Castout

Describe what you think the expression "castout" implies. Describe why the narrator of this poem said "it would have been / easier for me to die . . ." How do you think the narrator will regain a sense of her identity?

The Children's Exodus

In writing, compare and contrast the "personal" in stanza IV with the "impersonal" in stanza V. How does the narrator react to the parents' decision to send their children away? Describe how you feel about her reaction,

Collection of Valuables

Describe whether you think the Jews should have given up their valuables.

Volunteers and Leaving the Ghetto

Describe the "irony" of the concept "voluntary surrender" in ghetto life under the Nazi occupation. Describe the conditions that led some Jews to "voluntarily" surrender for deportation. How does the ending of "Volunteers" affected you when you read it. What were your feelings and reactions?

Warsaw in April 1943

Why is this poem dedicated to the memory of a woman? Describe why the poet alludes only indirectly to the uprising. What does the phrase "The account is clear" mean?

The Lemon

Describe why Ervin wants the lemon. Describe the decisions Ervin has to make. Do you think Ervin makes the right choices? Explain your position.

Survival in Auschwitz

Describe an incident or scene from this selection that had a strong impact on you. Can you explain why it affected you as it did? Describe Levi's description and interpretation of how people act when they are condemned to death.

Terezin

What marks the difference between childhood and adulthood in this poem? What does the poet wish could happen? What images and emotions does this poem evoke for you?

Stars

Describe why Michael and his cousin promised each other that they would stay together. What impact do you think this promise had on their ability to survive?

September 1944

Write a short paper Describing how images of weather are used in this poem

The Shawl

This story is from a book by the same name. In this short story, Cynthia Ozick describes how, in the face of all the brutality, a mother protects her infant daughter from the Nazis. This story of support and betrayal includes graphic and difficult material. I suggest you read it slowly, pausing often to think deeply about what events take place, the context in which they occur and why they occur.

Describe the emotions that this selection evokes in you . What does the author mean when she says of Magda , "You could think she was one of their babies"(page 257). Describe the symbolism of the shawl.

A Living Torch

Describe the emotions that this selection evoked in you.

Man's Search for Meaning

Describe how Frankl transcended the conditions of the concentration camp to find a way to survive spiritually. Describe the impact that nature seemed to have on Frankl. Describe the symbolism of the bird in the last sentence of this selection.

This Way to the Gas Ladies and Gentlemen

Write a paper comparing Borowski's portrayal of life in the camps with the portrayals in the other selections in this chapter. Write about your reaction to the following statement from this selection: "It is the camp law: people going to their death must be deceived to the very end. This is the only permissible form of charity."(page 283)

Jews Go Back to the Grave

Write a short essay explaining the title of this selection and how death gave birth to life.

Silence, and A Starry Night

Describe the mood of this poem and how the poet creates it. Given the traditional life that most women lived during this period, Describe the significance of women as resistance fighters as described in this poem.

What Happened that Day

Describe in writing the images and emotions that this poem evokes in you.

The Mosaic Artist's Apprentice

Write a comparison of Jacob's mother with the parents in "What Happened That Day"

Schindler's Legacy

Explain whether you would describe Schindler as a hero or as a sell: serving opportunist. Are these terms mutually exclusive? Write two descriptions of Schindler, one from the perspective of a Jew who survived because of him and the other from the perspective of a German official outwitted by him.

I Gambled on What Mattered Most

Describe the impressions you get about Hannah Senesh's life from her letters. Discuss how the poem "Blessed Is the Match" might be seen as analogous to Senesh's life. Discuss whether Senesh's decision to go back to Hungary was a reasoned one.

Tell Them I Was There

Adler poses the question: "Where was man?" (page 523) How would you answer this question, not only about the Holocaust but also about other horrific acts of hatred and destruction?

Survivor

What is the symbolism in the dream? Discuss the changes the survivor undergoes in this poem.

Children of the Holocaust

Write a short paper describing the issues that were continuing to trouble the children of Holocaust survivors. Choose a short passage from this selection that made an impact on you. Write about its significance to you.

Esther

What experiences did Esther have after the war that demonstrate that prejudice and discrimination against Jews did not end with the war?

Babi Yar

What images does this poem evoke for you? Describe the significance of the massacre at Babi Yar and its place in history now, more than fifty-five years after it occurred. The poet

was a Russian but not a Jew. Describe why you think he felt compelled to write a poem about Babi Yar.