

Worksheet: Fred Marcus

TEACHER KEY

Answer the following questions. Answers do not need to be in complete sentences.

Fred's Childhood in Berlin

1. In what year was Fred born? _____ 1924 _____

2. Write one sentence about Fred's father and one sentence about Fred's mother.

Father: Semmy was proud of their German roots (family had lived in Prussia for over 200 years). He served in the German military in WWI and was decorated. He was raised Orthodox but was not a strict observer during Fred's childhood. He ran a company with his brother that made neckties.

Mother: Gertrud was Protestant but converted to Judaism.

3. *Watch the video testimony.* When does Fred become interested in Judaism?

When the Nazis begin persecuting Jews.

Antisemitism in the Classroom

4. *Watch the video testimony.* Write a one-paragraph reflection.

(Summary) Fred skipped a grade so he is the youngest in the class. Fred noticed a change in Germany in school. One day the greeting changed from "Good morning" to "Heil Hitler." His music teacher would reward them by letting the class choose the closing song. His classmates chose the Nazi marching song (about a boy who was stabbed to death in a Nazi/communist fight). The song contained lines about the blood of the Jews. He had to sing this twice a week, and the other students would sing it at the Jewish students. He didn't talk about it for 30 years and then told students in a religious class about it. He discusses that his teacher (even in 1933) was afraid to stop it.

Many Establishments ban Jews, but some Doors Remain Open

5. *Watch the video testimony.* Write a one-paragraph reflection.

(Summary) Fred loved the movies and went to see a film. He was greeted with a sign that said, "Jews not wanted." He jumps ahead in time to 1938 when his mother died. His parents' non-Jewish friends reached out to cheer him up. Some offered to take him to the movies. He saw the same sign and said he wouldn't go in. This couple complained to his father that he was ungrateful. The couple said that the theater didn't mean to discriminate, but he still wouldn't go.

Kristallnacht: An Unmistakable Turning Point

6. *Watch the video testimony.* Write a two-sentence reflection.

(Summary) Fred took the train to school and his friend was upset but won't tell him why. When they got off the train, his friend shared that he saw the large synagogue burning and the fire department wasn't doing anything. They went to school, and it was decided that it was not safe for so many Jewish children to be in one location.

Preparing to Leave Germany

7. What allows Fred and his father to leave Germany?

The death of his mother (she was too sick to travel before).

8. Where do they go and why?

Shanghai because it was open to anyone – they didn't require immigration papers/ there isn't wasn't the same challenging process as in other countries (like the US).

Passage from Berlin to Shanghai

9. *Watch the video testimony.* Write a one-sentence reflection.

(Summary) On their last night in Germany, they stayed at a hotel that Fred's dad had stayed at before. He let the concierge know he was a Jew, and they let them stay anyway. They then took a train and a ship to Shanghai. Fred loved the ship – it was an adventure for a 14-year-old boy.

10. *Read the excerpt from Fred's unpublished autobiography.* What stands out to you about their departure from Germany?

(Summary) They were only allowed to take 10 Reichsmark each. Their passports were stamped with the letter "J" for Jew, and they were only valid for 30 days. The ship they traveled on was luxurious, so Fred doesn't fully absorb the reality of the situation.

Shanghai: Introduction to a New Life

11. *Read and/or watch this section.* Write a two-sentence summary of Fred's introduction to Shanghai.

It was a significant challenge for Fred to switch to the life of a refugee. He cried at their first meal. They slept in a large room of bunkbeds, and some people were telling dirty jokes. His father scolded the joke-tellers.

Life Under Japanese Occupation: Hongkew Ghetto

12. Why were they placed in a Ghetto?

The US declared war on Japan, and Japan joined the Axis powers. Partly in reaction to the Japanese internment in the US, Japan ordered stateless refugees in Shanghai to move to a specific area.

13. What were the conditions in the ghetto like?

Terrible – meager food, overcrowding, they can't leave

Alone in Shanghai

14. What happened to Fred's father?

They both got sick. While Fred was battling pneumonia, his father passed away. Fred was too sick to attend the funeral.

15. *Watch the first video testimony.* What is Fred's reaction to his father's death?

He was completely lost.

16. How did Fred survive without his father?

He poured his energy into work including helping in the ghetto and working as a volunteer for the fire department. He also worked on his father's business ventures.

News of the War in Europe

17. When did Fred learn about the Holocaust? **Fall 1945 (Japanese surrender)**

Life in Postwar Shanghai

18. *Watch the video testimony.* What did the Japanese surrender mean to Fred?

Freedom

To Live in Shanghai, or Elsewhere?

19. Why did the situation in Shanghai become dangerous following WWII?

Mao's rise to power/communist revolution

20. Why did Fred decide to emigrate?

His friends had all left Shanghai. His family was in the United States. He thought there was a possibility of business developments. He would have equal rights and be respected. He no longer wanted to be a stateless refugee.

Another Departure and a Homecoming: Leaving Shanghai for San Francisco

21. What was it like for Fred to arrive in America?

He saw the lights of the Golden Gate Bridge – this was the big moment for him.

A New Life in the United States

22. What work did Fred do in America?

He worked in hotels and ran religious schools.

23. Why does Fred move to Colorado and what career does he have there?

His second wife was from there, and he was a travel agent.

24. *Watch the final video testimony.* Write a two-sentence reflection. Warning: discussion of suicide.

He speaks of how he defines his “hometown.” It used to be San Francisco, but now he says Berlin. He talks about how challenging it is to return there. He had a friend who went back and hanged himself there. Fred has been able to go back because there are some decent people there, and you must take the bitter with the sweet. Every time he went, he felt a little more comfortable. He discusses the challenge of overcoming the hatred for the perpetrators.

Use the Interactive Map on the website.

25. *Filter the map to just Fred.* Write a one-sentence reflection on what stands out to you in using this tool.

Answers will vary.