

Worksheet: Henry Lowenstein

TEACHER KEY

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

Henry's Childhood in Berlin

1. In what year was Henry born? 1925
2. Write one sentence about Henry's father and one sentence about Henry's mother.
Father: Born in 1885 to a Jewish family in Prussia; studied medicine and was a decorated army doctor in WWI; opens his own medical practice after WWI
Mother: Born in 1894 in Estonia and studied art; is Lutheran and marries a Lutheran man; they escape the Russian Revolution and move to Finland and have a daughter; her husband dies, they move to Berlin, and she meets Henry's father
3. *Watch the video testimony.* Explain holidays at Henry's house.
Henry's family celebrates both Jewish and Christian holidays.

Under the Shadow of the Nazis

4. *Watch the video testimony.* What was life like for Henry in the early 1930s?
He didn't notice significant changes with the rise of the Nazis, but the street fights between Stormtroopers and communists scare him.
5. *Watch the second video testimony.* How does Nazi propaganda impact Henry?
It was hard for Henry not to be hurt. His parents told him to be proud to be Jewish.

Antisemitism in the Classroom

6. *Watch the video testimony – warning – a swear word is used in his testimony.* Write a two-sentence reflection.
(Summary) Henry faced brutality from Hitler Youth on the way to school. There was antisemitism in his classroom from classmates and teachers. He regrets not coming to the aid of his fellow Jewish students who were being persecuted.

Jewish Institutions Provide Support

7. *Watch the first video testimony.* Why was Henry's experience in the makeshift Jewish school different than his experiences in German schools?
He had strong teachers that showed students love, built his confidence, and wanted to be there (they had been fired from their jobs in German schools because they were Jewish).

Kristallnacht: An Unmistakable Turning Point

8. *Watch the two video testimonies.* What are three ways Kristallnacht impacted Henry's life?
- His city was damaged, and Jewish businesses were destroyed and/or labeled
 - His school was closed – he arrived there and was told to go home
 - Some of his teachers were rounded up
 - The Rabbi at his synagogue was burned alive for trying to retrieve the Torah scrolls (Henry thinks)
 - Henry's uncle was rounded up (in his slippers without a coat)
 - Henry's family had to hide in his uncle's apartment; other relatives join them
9. *Examine the picture of the synagogue destroyed in Kristallnacht.* Why is this location significant to Henry?
He had his bar mitzvah there a few months earlier.

After Kristallnacht, Doors Close

10. *Watch the video testimony.* Write a one-paragraph reflection.
(Summary) Henry and his mom went back to their apartment and grab the silver. They asked non-Jewish friend after friend to hide it for them, but friends closed the doors in their faces (this was very hard for Henry). Their old neighbors agreed to take the silver. He continued to go to school, but his teachers were in concentration camps. He and his friends rode their bikes to the camp, but they couldn't see anything. People were released from the camps and threatened with death if they spoke of what happened. They were told that no matter where they went the Nazis would get them.

Looking for a Way Out

11. *Watch the first video testimony.* Why was it challenging for adults to leave Germany?
Other countries were dealing with the Great Depression and their own populations; Jews could only leave Germany with \$5 – the priority was getting the children out.
12. *Watch the second video testimony.* How does Henry end up applying for the British Kindertransport?
His teacher had connections to Britain and tells them about it.

Kindertransport: A Lifeline for Jewish Children

13. *Watch the first video testimony.* Why didn't Henry go to France? Why was this a good thing?
He was too ill to go at the time he needed to. Most Jews sent to France did not survive (once Germany invaded and defeated France).

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

(Summary) Henry was old enough to know why he must leave and that he must leave. He and his parents don't make plans for how to meet up later because they don't know what is to come. His mother fled the Soviet Union, and his father was a doctor for all four years of WWI, so the family had faced challenges before and knew that life could be tough.

Kindertransport: The Journey to England

15. *Watch the three video testimonies about his journey.* Write a one-to-two-sentence summary.

They traveled from Berlin to Holland by train. They were nervous the whole time that something would go wrong, and they would be sent back or worse. They arrived in Holland to a cheering, supportive crowd, and chocolate and food. They then took a ship to England.

16. *Watch the two videos on the camp at Westgate.* Write a one-paragraph summary of conditions.

It was basically run by children. The oldest took charge and assigned jobs and duties. The kids got sick and there was no medical help. They were quarantined if they weren't feeling well. Henry fainted at dinner one night and was quarantined (it was probably just because he was hungry). Henry got to leave because the group that sponsored him took him to London to live in a boarding house.

War Breaks Out in Europe

17. How does Henry end up in Whipsnade?

Children were evacuated from London. Some refugees were sent to Whipsnade. He was assigned to a family with two other refugee children. In Whipsnade, he worked on a farm and lived next to a zoo.

18. Why is Henry considered an alien?

Britain went to war with Germany, and he was technically German.

Meanwhile, Back in Berlin

19. How does Henry's father, Max, avoid deportation?

His mother protested it repeatedly, and their neighbors tipped them off about the Gestapo.

Reconnecting After the War

20. How does Henry reconnect with his parents?

A British officer on a neighboring farm met his mom rather coincidentally.

A New Country, A New Start

21. Where does Henry's family settle in the US? Williamsport, PA
22. What happens to Henry's father shortly after arriving in the US?
He died (he was weakened by forced labor in Germany).
23. *Watch the video testimony.* How long does it take Henry to graduate from high school? 7 months
24. What jobs does Henry work while in high school and art school?
grave digger iron foundry worker paper factory worker

From the Airforce to the Theater

25. When the Korean War breaks out, what does Henry do?
He joined the US Air Force.
26. How does Henry end up in Denver?
He was working at a theatre in Connecticut when he was recruited by Helen Bonfils to design shows in Denver at the Bonfils Theater.

Use the Map Feature on the website.

27. *Filter the map to just Henry.* Write a one-sentence reflection on what stands out to you in using this tool.
Answers will vary.