

# *St. Jude the Apostle School*

## *Summer Reading 2017*

### *7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Literature*

(1) Read the novel *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson and complete the attached questions as you read. **Bring the responses to the questions and a copy of your book to school on the first day of class.** A written test on this novel will be given during the first full week of school. Please see the attached example for formatting.

(2) Read the novel *False Prince* by Jennifer A. Nielsen. An Accelerated Reader test will be taken on this novel the first full week of school (100 points) It is strongly encouraged that you create chapter summaries for this novel. The assessment for this novel will require recollection of specific elements from the text. **The summaries are optional for the honors class.**

(3) Choose a third book from the list below. **Complete the attached notes page after you read the book.** You will take an AR test on this book. It will be a grade for the first nine weeks. A literature review will be completed on this novel by the third week of school. Information about a literature review will be given to students the first full week of school in August. **If a student took an A.R. test on the book during a previous school year, it will not count as summer reading for the 2017-2018 school year.**

**The Selection** by Kiera Cass

**The Fourteenth Goldfish** by Jennifer Holm

**Surrounded by Sharks** by Michael Northrop

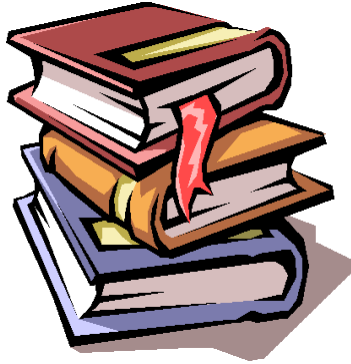
**One for the Murphys** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

**Loot: How to Steal a Fortune** by Jude Watson

**The Extra Yard** by Mike Lupica

**Between Shades of Gray** by Ruta Sepetys

# Accelerated Reader



## Summer Party

Thursday, June 29, 2017  
11:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.  
St. Jude Library

<i>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Traditional</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors</i>
<p>(1) If you take your Accelerated Reader test on <i>The False Prince</i>, you will receive +5 on your overall test grade.</p> <p>(2) If you take an Accelerated Reader test on requirement #3, you will receive +5 on your literature review.</p>	<p>(1) If you take your Accelerated Reader test on <i>Legend</i>, you will receive +5 on your overall test grade.</p> <p>(2) If you take an Accelerated Reader test on requirement #2, you will receive +5 on your literature review.</p>	<p>(1) If you take your Accelerated Reader test on <i>Legend</i>, you will receive +5 on your overall test grade.</p> <p>(2) If you take an Accelerated Reader test on requirement #3, you will receive +5 on your literature review.</p>

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# *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson

Directions: Answer each of the following questions using complete sentences. Be as detailed as possible in your response.

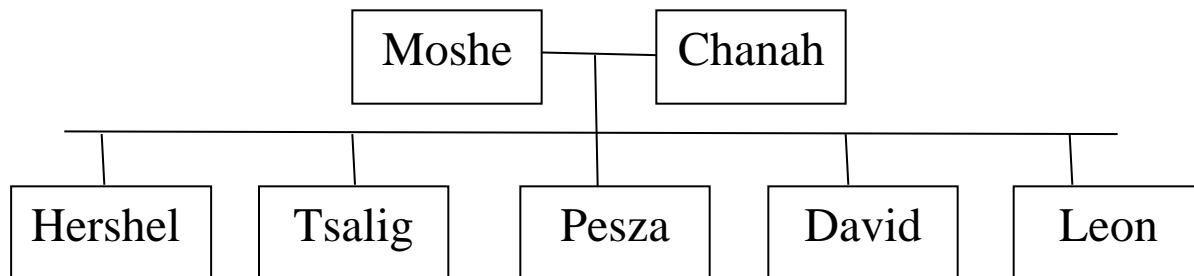
## Prologue

- 1<sup>st</sup> person point of view; autobiography
- begins *in medias res* = in the middle of things

1. Why is Leon Leyson in Los Angeles and who is he there to see?

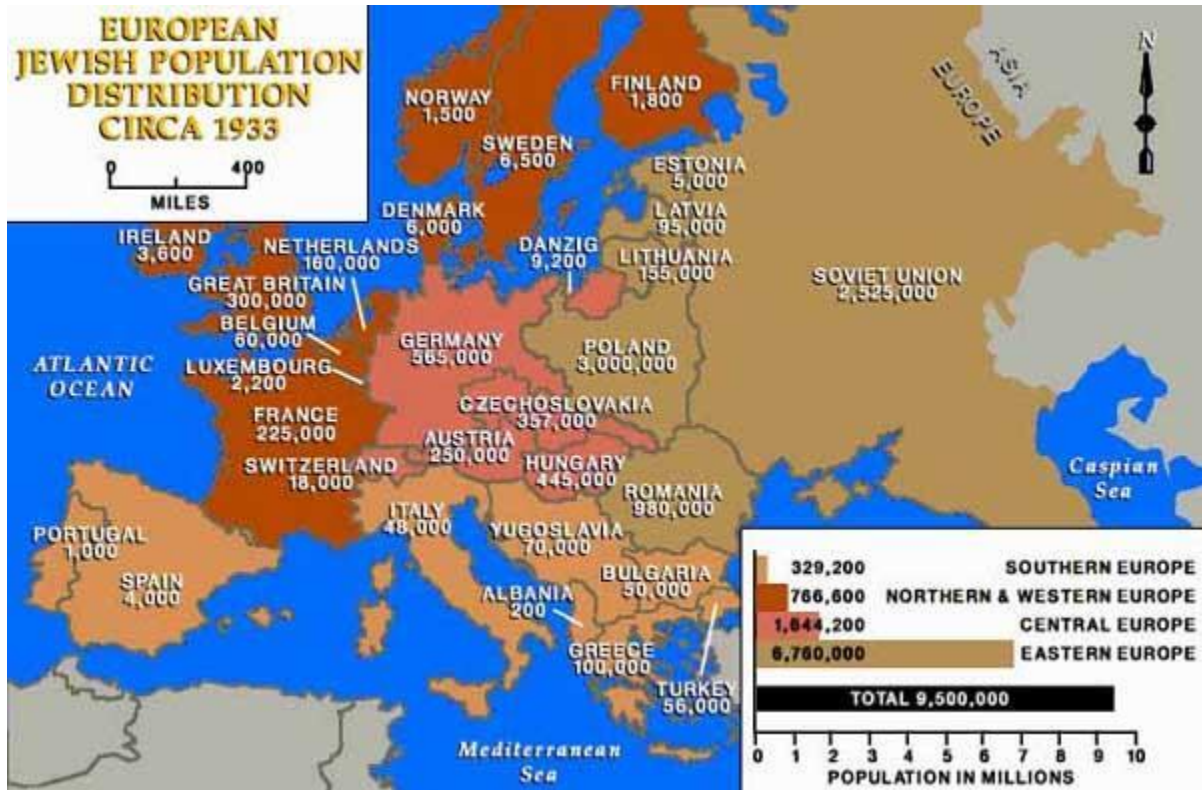
## Chapter One

- Leon (nee' Lieb) Leyson was born in Narweka, Poland in 1930



- Sabbath = weekly day of rest from sundown on Friday until Saturday night
  - o Originated from God's day of rest in Genesis
- Zionism = a national movement of Jews that support the creation of a Jewish homeland in Israel
  - o In 1939 present day Israel was an Arab state known exclusively as Palestine
  - o 1948 it became present day Israel
- Passover = celebration commemorating the exodus of the Jewish people out of Egypt and their freedom from enslavement
  - o Moses and Exodus
- Pogroms = violent riots that intended to massacre or persecute Jews

1. How many Jews live in Narweka, Poland in the 1930s?



2. Why do the Leysons move to Krakow, Poland?

3. What prejudices against Jews did Leyson not understand as a child?

4. Why is his grandfather not allowed to own land?

5. What mistakes did his parents make about the Germans of WWI versus the Germans of WWII?

## Chapter Two

- Rosh Hashanah = Jewish New Year
  - o Anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve
- Yom Kippur = Holiest day of Jewish calendar; marked with fasting prayer vigil
  - o Day of Atonement (for sins)
- Hershel Grynszpan = Polish born Jew who lived with his family in Germany. Moved to Paris as a teenager for school. His parents were forced to leave Germany and live between Germany and Poland during the same events mentioned on p. 41. In retaliation for this event, Grynszpan went to the German embassy in Paris and shot an officer.
- Kristallnacht = was believed to be the German's retaliation for Grynszpan's actions. Germans destroyed Jewish shops and synagogues
  - o Night of broken glass

1. What do Leon and his friends do for entertainment?

2. How does Leon's teacher insult him without Leon realizing it?

3. Why do Leon's father and Hershel think it is better for them to leave Krakow and return to Narewka?

## Chapter Three

- Propaganda posters were used by the Nazis to influence public perception of Jews. They were often caricatures of common Jewish features: dark hair, prominent nose



- Nuremberg Laws= anti-Semitic laws that restricted the rights of non Aryans, particularly Jews. It provided a clear legal definition for “Jewish”.
- Star of David armband = every territory occupied by Germany had a distinguishing patch to be sew on to clothes by all Jewish people. It allowed for quick identification as Jewish and not wearing it was punishable by death. You can see all the patches here: <http://www.holocaustcenter.org/holocaust-badges>

1. What are some of the restrictions Leyson faced because of the Nuremberg Laws?
2. Why is Leyson’s father allowed to keep his job when all other Jews at his factory lost theirs?
3. What defining moment made Leyson realize he could not be passive toward the Nazi oppressors?
4. How did Leyson show resistance toward the Nazis?
5. How did Leyson’s father become employed by Oskar Schindler?



## Chapter Four

- Generalgouvernement = When Germany took control of Poland, this is the official name it gave the area. Their plan was the move upwards of 20 million Polish and Jewish people toward Siberia in Russia and allow around 4 million quality Poles to be assimilated into German culture—Germanization
- Ghetto = The word has an Italian origin which means “slag” (waste). Every major city where Jews were allowed to remain during WWII had a ghetto. It was a walled off area where Jews were forced to live separated from others.

1. What did Oskar Schindler’s company produce?
2. What security did employment create for Leyson’s father?
3. How many Jews will move into the Krakow ghetto? How many is it intended for?
4. How does Leyson’s father manage to get them better accommodations than most?



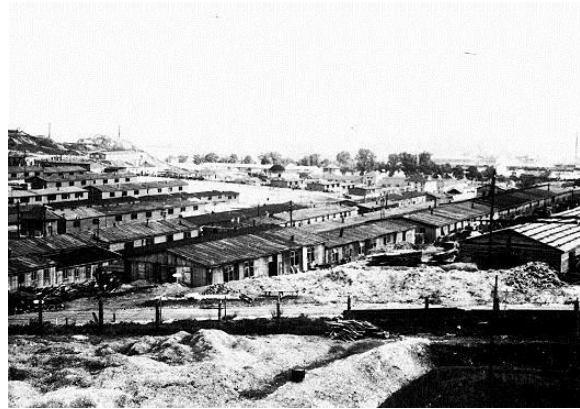
## Chapter Five



1. What did Jews living in the Krakow ghetto do to show resistance?
2. What was Mr. Luftig's greatest possession?
3. Why does chaos erupt the second time the Germans try to deport Jews from the ghetto?
4. Why does Tsalig not get off the train when Oskar Schindler tries to save him?

## Chapter Six

- SS = abbreviation for schutzstaffel, which was the German guard/law enforcement. It was overseen by one of the most evil men under Hitler, Heinrich Himmler. The majority of the crimes against humanity committed during the Holocaust were by Nazis in this group.
- Plaszow = city on the outskirts of Krakow. The labor camp built there was known as the Krakow-Plaszow Camp (Plaszow for short). It began as a labor camp, and Oskar Schindler's Jews were all here (his factory was adjacent to the camp). It eventually became a concentration camp where thousands were killed, most by being executed.



1. Why are Moshe, Pesza and David not in the ghetto during the Atkion?
2. Why does Leyson's mother destroy the remaining furniture before moving from Ghetto B to Ghetto A?
3. What is Leyson surprised to see as he marches out of the ghetto into the streets of Krakow?

## Chapter Seven

- Amon Goeth = Captain of the SS overseeing Plaszow. After the Holocaust, he was the first person convicted of homicide by the Supreme National Tribunal of Poland.

1. Describe the living conditions at Plaszow.

2. What cruel acts by Amon Goethe does Leyson witness first hand?

3. How is Schindler able to have additional Jews added to his labor group?

## Chapter Eight

1. How does Schindler's factory differ from Plaszow?
2. What specific acts of kindness does Schinder show toward Leyson and his family?
3. What causes Schindler to have to move his factory to Brunnlitz, Czechoslovakia?
4. What horrible act is David made to do while the family awaits a transfer from Plaszow to Schindler's new factory?

## Chapter Nine

- Talmud = a Jewish religious document that serves to explain how to live out the Torah. The Torah are the first five book of our Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). The Torah was Jewish law.
- Auschwitz-Birkenau = From 1942-1944, this was the concentration camp the Germans primarily used to enact the “Final Solution”. At least 1/6 of the Jewish population killed during the Holocaust was killed here. The camp had four gas chambers used for mass killings.



1. Describe the living conditions at Gross-Rosen concentration camp.
2. Why is Leyson's father terrified to hear Chanah and Pesza had been sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau?
3. How does Germany losing the war make conditions worse for Schindler's Jews?

4. How does Leyson's health deteriorate by 1945?
5. Explain how the Talmud saying, "He who saves a life saves the world entire" is fitting for Schindler's actions.

## **Chapter Ten**

- Refugee = a person who no longer lives in their native country because they have been displaced by war or persecution.
1. Where does Leyson's family go after the war? Where do they have to live?
  2. How many Jews from Krakow survived the war?
  3. Why does Dr. Neu become angry when his wife says, "We did not know."?
  4. Why does Leyson decide to leave his fedora behind when he arrives in Los Angeles?

## Epilogue

- Stones on graves = Jewish authority feels that placing flowers on a grave is a link to pagan customs. Placing stones on the grave is superstitious and symbolic. Superstitiously, they are used to hold the soul down, to keep it from roaming the earth. Symbolically, they are used as a sign of respect—stones last forever as do the memories we have of the deceased.
1. Why does Leyson find it difficult to talk about his experiences in the war with Americans?
  2. How did Leyson's experiences in Plaszow affect his attitude toward "hard" work?
  3. How does segregation in the South remind Leyson of discrimination against Jews?
  4. What event led to Leyson finally talking about his WWII experiences?
  5. FINAL THOUGHTS: What have you taken away from this book? What have you learned?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Notes Page

Who were the main characters in the novel? Describe their personalities.

What was the major problem in the novel? Who was involved? How was it resolved?

Where did the story take place?

What were the five most significant plot details? Provide them in chronological order?

Who told the story? A character from the novel or the author?

What is the theme? What lesson should you take away from this novel?





## Want to get ahead and knock out those A.R. points now? Start early!!

1<sup>st</sup> Nine Week Accelerated Reader Requirements

7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Traditional	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors
<b>*** Tests taken to meet summer reading requirements do not count for 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks Accelerated Reader points ***</b>		
15 points	12 points	15 points

Accelerated reading will be a 100 point assignment every 9 weeks. I strongly encourage you to get a head start on your first nine weeks AR points. The sooner you can get your AR done the better off you will be.

In order to receive full credit for your reading, you must receive a 70% or higher on your AR test if you are in TRADITIONAL 8<sup>th</sup> grade. ALL HONORS (7th or 8th) classes must get at least an 80% on your AR test in order to receive your points.

