

HANDOUT 3.3 B - LISTENING AND WRITING ACTIVITY

The Flag with Fifty-Six Stars

by Susan Goldman Rubin

Directions: You will listen to a story. Then you will answer some questions to show how well you understood what was read. You will listen to the story twice. As you listen carefully, you may take notes on the story anytime you wish during the readings. You may use these notes to answer the questions that follow.

Here are some words and definitions you will need to know as you listen:

- Holocaust- a systematic killing of people by the Nazis during WWII
- concentration camp- guarded area where people are held prisoner under harsh conditions
- Nazi- member of a political party led by Hitler
- inhumane- lacking kindness and compassion

1. Signs of hope. List 3 actions taken by the prisoners that show they had the “spirit to resist.”

2. The author tells a true story of how the strength of the human spirit can survive evil. Write an essay in which you describe the setting and how some of the victims were survivors.

Using your background knowledge and events from the story be sure to include:

- historical events
- details for supporting evidence

3. One of the survivors told the author not to write this book. He said that Mauthausen was too terrible a place and children should not know about it. Write a persuasive essay in which you explain that reading this book will encourage tolerance and understanding among diverse (different) groups of people.

In your essay be sure to:

- clearly organize and express your ideas
- correctly use grammar, spelling, and punctuation

4. Directions: You have listened to the book, *The Flag with 56 Stars*. Now answer the following questions. Write the capital letter of the correct choice on the line at the left.

___ 1. Which statement best describes a way that may have helped a prisoner survive?

- A. Working hard would have set one free.
- B. Prisoners wore colored triangular patches on their uniforms.
- C. Dreaming of freedom kept some prisoners going.
- D. Himmler gave orders that “no prisoner is to fall alive into enemy hands.”

___ 2. According to the story, “crimes” in the eyes of the Nazis meant,

- A. anyone who belonged to the Nazi party.
- B. anyone wearing an SS badge.
- C. being a polite officer or fireman from Vienna.
- D. belonging to any group hated by Hitler.

___ 3. Why does the author tell her readers about this concentration camp?

- A. to demonstrate
- B. to explain the situation behind the creation of the flag with 56 stars
- C. to compare and contrast the lives of prisoners with non-prisoners
- D. to give an example of a WW II concentration camp

___ 4. The arrival of the US into the war in 1941 signaled the

- A. Nazis to collapse enormous tunnels.
- B. evacuation of prisoners from concentration camps.
- C. Germans to open more subcamps
- D. SS guards to run away.

- ___ 5. Which statement is supported by information in the book?
- A. The United States entered the war in December 1941.
 - B. "One day we saw an air battle taking place before our very eyes."
 - C. "They all suffered under inhumane conditions."
 - D. "Rumors spread that the war would end soon."
- ___ 6. Which statement reflects an opinion expressed?
- A. "Everyone was afraid."
 - B. "The prisoners all prayed that they could hold out long enough."
 - C. "Some of those arrested were spies and secret agents."
 - D. "Hastily, they scrounged around the camp for material."
- ___ 7. The main reason the author does not tell about the flag makers is because
- A. there is no written record listing the names.
 - B. Lieutenant Taylor taught some musicians how to play, "The Star-Spangled Banner."
 - C. the number of stars was not accurate.
 - D. most of the SS guards ran away before being captured.
- ___ 8. Read these sentences from the story.
- As the Allied troops advanced toward Austria and Germany, Himmler realized he would need to hide his crimes. "He gave new orders. 'No prisoner is to fall alive into enemy hands,' he declared."
- The author uses this description to reveal
- A. why more criminals were sentenced to the work force.
 - B. why Himmler released the prisoners.
 - C. that Himmler knew the world would not support these concentration camps.
 - D. why more subcamps were built.
- ___ 9. How do the reader's feelings change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story?
- A. In the beginning one felt proud : in the end one felt fearful.
 - B. In the beginning one felt anxious : in the end one felt uplifted.
 - C. In the beginning one felt relaxed : in the end one felt proud.
 - D. In the beginning one felt happy : in the end one felt confused.
- ___ 10. The story, *The Flag with 56 Stars*, is an example of non-fiction because it includes
- A. a series of events with many exaggerated tellings.
 - B. a strange setting, peculiar characters, and plot twists.
 - C. a reason for convincing readers to accept a particular point of view
 - D. a plot, setting, and character that creates a story that could actually happen.
- ___ 11. Read this sentence from the book.
- As the tunnels were finished, the Nazis set up subterranean factories...
- Which meaning of "subterranean" is used in this sentence?
- A. weapon manufacturing
 - B. located underground
 - C. between conquered territories