

Name _____



The Cage Story Notes Part 1- Chapters 1-24

Author:

Setting:

Genre:

Historical Background:

Part 1

Chapter 1-6:

Vocabulary:

Annihilate: v. To destroy completely.

Crematorium: n. A furnace or establishment for the incineration of corpses.

Matzos: n. A brittle, flat piece of unleavened bread, eaten especially during Passover.

Optimist: n. A person who expects the best possible outcomes or dwells on the most hopeful aspects of a situation.

Passover: n. A holiday celebrated in the spring to commemorate the exodus of the Jews from Egypt.

Bewildered: adv. To be confused or befuddled especially with numerous conflicting situations, objects or statements.

Volksdeutsche: n. German people. The upper class in conquered nations under Nazi Germany.

Mischievous(ly): adj./adv. Causing mischief. Playing a naughty or teasing way.

Incoherent: adj. Unable to express one's thoughts in an orderly manner.

Elation: n. Intense happiness or joy.

Comrade: n. A friend, associate or companion.

Caravan: n. A single file of vehicles or pack animals.

Ghetto: n. An often walled quarter in a European city to which Jews were restricted beginning in the Middle Age.

Tuberculosis: n. An infectious disease characterized by inflammation of the lungs and bloody sputum.

Dysentery: n. An inflammation of the lower intestinal tract resulting in severe diarrhea and bleeding.

Hitler Youth: n. A Nazi organization that employed young boys as spies.

Judenrat: n. The Jewish counsel put in power over the Lodz ghetto to maintain order.

Setting: Starts with present Narrator

Plot Summary:

Character list and description of each character:

Riva:

Nancy:

Mama (Nacha):

Mrs. Gruber:

Olga:

Harry:

Mr. Brown:

Saba:

Mala, Chana and Yankele:

Little boy:

Abram:

Mrs. Lichtenstein:

Motele:

Laibele:

Moishele:

Homework Questions:

1. What nightmare haunts the narrator's dreams?
2. What is Riva's family like? What does her mother do for a living?

3. What happens to Henry at the end of chapter 2 and why? Who helps him? What happened in chapter 3?

4. What happens to Riva and her cousin on the way to the post office?

5. Who does Riva believe is the bravest person she has ever known? Why?

6. What does Riva, her mother and her brothers do for work in the ghetto? Why does this work anger Riva? What happens at the factory? What goes through Riva's mind?

Chapter 7-12:

Vocabulary:

- Devotion: n. An ardent attachment or affection.
- Gallstones: n. A small hard mass formed in the gallbladder or in the bile duct.
- Meshuggener: n. Yiddish for "crazy person".
- SAMSON: In the Bible, an Israelite warrior with superhuman strength who destroyed the enemy nation of Philistia.
- Malnutrition: n. Insufficient or unhealthy nutrition.
- Morale : n. The state of mind of a person or group as exhibited by confidence, cheerfulness and discipline.
- Deportation: n. The expelling of a person from a country.
- Verdict: n. A judgement, conclusion.
- Jubilant: adj. Extremely joyful
- Pension: n. A sum of money paid regularly, especially as a retirement benefit.

Setting:

Plot Summary:

Character list and description of each character:

Meshuggener Moishe:

Simcia:

Ghetto doctor:

Social Worker:

Miss Wolkowna

Shmulek Nachtigal:

Henry:

Homework Questions:

1. What is Riva's new occupation? Why did she change her working arrangements?
2. What has happened to Riva's legs? How does Riva get to see a doctor? Why was this trip so difficult?

3. Why does Riva want to write letters to her sisters and brother in Russia if no mail is carried out of the ghetto? What does Laibele want Riva to do? What did Riva always want to be?

4. Who visits the children and what "horrible word" does she keep saying?

5. What did Mama say that Riva remembers? What effect do these words have on her?

6. What "good news" does the social worker have for Riva? What must Riva give up and what does that mean for her?

Chapter 13-18:

Vocabulary:

Philosopher: n. One who takes a calm and rational approach toward life.

Pneumonia: n. An acute or chronic disease characterized by inflammation of the lungs.

Socialism: n. A social system in which the means and distributing of goods are owned collectively and political power is exercised by the whole community.

Acquaintance: n. A person whom one knows.

Tranquil: adj. Free from agitation; calm

Setting:

Plot Summary:

Character list and description of each character:

Yulek Schwartz:

Faygele Schwartz:

The Rosenfarbs:

Miriam:

Mr. David Berkenwald:

Homework Questions:

1. Who knocks on Riva's door in chapter 13 and who do they want?
How does Motele and Riva warn the fugitive?
2. What "must" Motele do in chapter 14? How does he succeed and what does he make Riva promise? What crime did Motele commit and what is the punishment for that crime? What was Motele's sentence?
3. What has happened to Mrs. Gruber and her family? What has Riva concluded?
4. What tragedy happens at the end of chapter 15 and how is Riva's reaction to its reality a sin?

5. What orders come to Riva and her brothers in chapter 17 and why? Where do Riva and her brothers find themselves living and what are some benefits? Riva's new home will serve as a hiding place for what? Why is this so dangerous? Why is it so important to those living in the ghetto?
6. Riva notices a difference in the way she is treated when she returns to work at the factory. Why this change? What did Mr. Berkenwald do and why? How does Riva react?
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Chapter 19-24:

Vocabulary:

Rejoice: v. To feel joyful or to be delighted.

Savagery: n. Uncivilized or barbaric behavior.

Legacy: n. Something handed down from an ancestor or predecessor.

Pilgrimage: n. A journey to a sacred place.

Petrified: adj. Stunned or paralyzed in terror.

Aghast: adj. Struck by terror or amazement.

Auschwitz: A Nazi death camp.

HAMAN: A man in the Bible who conspired to execute all Jews in the Persian Empire. However, his plan was thwarted because the queen of the empire was Jewish but hid her identity.

Setting:

Plot Summary:

Character list and description of each character:

Hans Biebow:

Mrs. Boruchowich

Karola, Mikita, Berl:

Laibish, Rifkele:

Homework Questions:

1. What change has Riva noticed in Yulek? What bad news reaches Yulek and how does he react? How does Riva help?
2. How does Motele and Moishеле try to restore the spirit of Peasch (Passover)? How did Riva's brother's pay for their gift?
3. What bulletins are circulated throughout the ghetto? What does Mr. Berkenwald tell Riva?
4. How do Riva, Motele and Moishеле hide from the Nazis? Who lets the three siblings know they are safe to come out?
5. Motele tells Riva that they must voluntarily go to the labor camps. What are some of the things Riva and the others take? What will be left behind and why?
6. What are some of the things said in the darkness? What are some of the horrible conditions present in the cattle cars during their three day journey? What is the train's destination?

Name _____



The Cage Story Notes Part 2- Chapters 25-48

Part 2

Chapter 25-30:

Vocabulary:

Kapos: n. Prisoners that are placed in authority over other prisoners at the concentration camps.

Chopin, Frédéric François: Polish-born French composer and pianist of the romantic era. His music, written chiefly for the piano, was based on traditional Polish dance themes.

Barracks: n. A building or group of buildings for soldiers [or prisoners] to live in.

Setting:

Plot Summary:

Character list and description of each character:

Tola:

Dr. Ginzberg:

Madame Commandant:

Helen:

Homework Questions:

1. What happens to Riva and her group in chapter 25?

2. Describe what happens during the first head count.

3. What sound strikes fear in to Riva's barrack? What does Dr. Ginzburg say about the sound?

4. What happens at the end of Chapter 29?

5. Where has Riva arrived after the second train ride? How is her destination different from Auschwitz?

Chapter 31-36:

Vocabulary:

Subdued: adj. 1. To overcome by force; conquer. 2. To keep down; hold back.

Setting:



Plot Summary:


Character list and description of each character:

Frenchman:


Rosa:

Faige & Chane:

Sara:



Homework Questions:

1. What is Riva commanded to forget? To remember?
 2. What work does Riva do at the camp?
 3. What does Riva ask of Rosa and why?
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4. Describe what happens to the sisters Faige and Chane.

5. What does Rosa give Riva in chapter 35 and what does she do with it?

6. Why is Riva's barrack singing in chapter 36?

Chapter 37-42:

Vocabulary:

Indifferent: adj. Having no particular interest or concern; apathetic.

Amputate: v. To cut off (a projecting body part), especially by surgery.

Setting:

Plot Summary:





Character list and description of each character:

Camp Doctor:

Lotta:

Homework Questions:

1. What is wrong with Riva in Chapter 37?
 2. What has the doctor arranged for Riva's treatment?
 3. Riva sees Lotta as human. Why?
 4. What does the Camp Doctor help Riva to do in chapter 41?
 5. What does Riva do to entertain the Commandant on Christmas and what happens to her?
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2. What acts of kindness does Katia extend to Riva?
 3. In chapter 45, the inhabitants of Mittlesteine are moved to other camps. Why? What is the threat that the commandant shouts to her prisoners?
 4. What work does Riva do at the new camp?
 5. How are Riva and the others liberated? What was supposed to happen?
 6. What did Riva find when she returned to Lodz? What happened to her mother? Motele and Moishela? Her siblings in Russia?
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6. What unexpected gift does Riva receive and from whom?

Chapter 43-48:

Vocabulary:

Famished: adj. Extremely hungry.

Persecuted: v. To be oppressed or harassed with ill-treatment, especially because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or beliefs.

Setting:

Plot Summary:

Character list and description of each character:

Katia:

Homework Questions:

1. What is Riva's new occupation when she returns to work?

