

Summative Writing Assignment

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Journaling encouraged the Jews to survive during the Holocaust. Once they got their thoughts on paper, it pushed them to face their fears. On the other hand, the Nazis mainly focused on physical education for Nazi children.

According to an article called *Propaganda and Education*, one of the main goals in Nazi schools was physical education: “Physical education, education for action, is alone worthy of the Nazi teacher's attention. All else can be dismissed as non-essential.” The Nazis solely focused on physical education. In The Devil In Vienna, by Doris Orgel, Lieselotte, the best friend of the main character Inge, goes to a Nazi school. She spends most of the school day performing extreme physical exercise. When Lieselotte wrote a letter to Inge, she said that she was required to do multiple hours of calisthenics per day at school. It is not good for a child to do such excessive physical activity; it strains the muscles. Overall, Nazi education promoted physical activity with a goal of physical superiority above all else.

In both The Devil In Vienna and the essay, journaling frequently occurs. Inge, the protagonist of The Devil In Vienna, spends a lot of time writing. For example, Inge states the following: “I asked Lieselotte in my letter if there was the slightest chance she might ever move back to Vienna. (I’d already dreamed twice that she had.)” This example illustrates that by writing down her thoughts Inge helped herself survive the loneliness that resulted from being without her best friend, Lieselotte. Additionally, journaling helped Inge deal with the loss of

Lieselotte, who moved to Munich. When Lieselotte left Vienna, Inge was very sad. As time past, Inge's sadness transformed into mourning. In Inge's journal, which was a notebook given to her by her grandpa, O.O, she often wrote about how she missed Lieselotte. In the history packet, in the article The Cold, (page 21), a child wrote in his diary, "I am hungry. I am cold. When I grow up I want to be German, and then I will no longer be hungry and cold." The child is expressing his or her feelings about the situation in the ghettos. He or she thinks that if you were German, then you would not be cold, hungry or living in a ghetto. This child is troubled and confused; she is living in terrible conditions and is expressing her inner feelings. If I was in that situation, I would have not necessarily wanted to be German. I would want to fight the Germans for all of the terrible things they did to the Jews. Why would anyone want to become part of a culture that was built on violence and oppression.

Even though this was a truly terrible time for the Jews, I find it empowering that the Jews were willing to write down their thoughts with the risk of Nazis finding out what they wrote. If the Nazis were to find out what they wrote, then the Jew would either be killed, or deported to a concentration camp. Both Inge and Jews in the history packet would journal in times of despair. Though the Holocaust was a terrible time, some Jews survived and definitely inspired me.