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Humanities

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The Man From The Other Side

During World War Two, most Aryans believed that the Jews were horrible, dirty, creatures of the devil. Yet, many still went on to risk their lives and help Jews. In *The Man From the Other Side*, the main character, Marek, is a fourteen-year-old Christian who starts off smuggling food into the Warsaw ghetto with his step-father, and goes on to help one Jew hide and later helps him back into the ghetto to join the uprising going on. When Marek brings Pan Jozek, the Jew, back to the ghetto to join the uprising, Marek himself stays. At the end of the book, Pan Jozek dies, having sustained severe injuries from the fight against the Germans within the ghetto. Uri Orlev, the author, effectively conveys that those who helped the Jews during the Holocaust experienced tremendous terror and fear themselves.

One terror that people like Marek, who helped the Jews, faced was getting caught. “‘Only the boy can be trusted’ said Antony,”(p 5). Antony is saying that only Marek can be trusted because he won’t give Antony or himself away. This shows how most people didn’t trust each other at this time because they were afraid that someone would give them away; they were so

afraid that they wouldn't trust their closest friends, for fear that they would be betrayed. This was a terror that those who helped the Jews faced every day.

A second anxiety these people faced was having to hide Jews and having to provide for them. "All he said though was that he had no room" (p 88). This passage, which tells the reader what Marek's uncle said, is saying that there is not always room for the Jews. Although it doesn't specifically say it, the Jews also pay the Gentiles to hide them and while that money may help with expenses, the Gentiles have to be careful with how much they spend as not to raise suspicion by the Nazis. This relates to the anxiety of providing the Jews with food and other necessities because the Gentiles hiding Jews needed both room for the Jews but also a way of providing for them without raising suspicion. If the Gentiles bought a larger than normal amount of food consistently than some may be suspicious. Those who helped the Jews lived with this anxiety all day, every day, for fear that they would buy just a little too much or someone would hear something and they would be turned in.

A third fear these Gentiles had was the fear of being found out. For example, when Marek says "In the end, though, we were discovered by a fellow worker of Antony's," (p 10) this shows that no one can be trusted, even fellow workers, because they will either want to turn you in or they will blackmail you into splitting profits if you are trading. This goes along with the fear of being found out by proving that even those you see everyday cannot be trusted with the most confidential of things. Those who helped the Jews lived with this terror everyday. This was an

especially big fear because if the Gentiles were found out they would most likely be turned in and would very possibly face death.

In conclusion, the terrors those who helped the Jews faced included the anxiety of hiding and providing for the Jews, the fear of getting caught, and the fear of being found out. Using *The Man From The Other Side*, Uri Orlev communicates the fear that those who hid Jews during World War Two faced. This is important because it is a reminder that while bad events may happen, and people look at others in bad ways, those people may still be willing to help.