



Name _____ Date _____

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

PART I

Read the excerpts from the diaries of young Jewish people who were forced into ghettos or concentration camps.

"It is hard to get bread; Jews are driven away from all the 'queues.' They are seized, hauled off to labor, and beaten to a pulp. Hell has caught fire. Gangs of hooligans pounce on Jewish shops; looters plunder with impunity. Fewer Jews are visible in the streets; my father and brothers never venture out. Every knock on the door is terrifying; the slightest noise freezes the blood in our veins. Violent feelings rage within me... What more will this day bring? Shrieks, terror, blows, abductions, imprisonment, messengers, humiliation and disgrace, posters with laws - a sea of posters, white, green, red, yellow, new ones each day, but always with the same message: Jews are forbidden... to buy, sell, study, pray, gather, eat, etc., a string of prohibitions with no end! Would that the night would never end, that we could have some peace, some balm for the tumult in our hearts..."

– Yarden, September 13, 1939

"I am full of dire forebodings. During the last few nights, I have had terrible nightmares. I saw Warsaw drowning... I wanted to flee, but could not, and awoke in a cold sweat, terrified and exhausted. The golden sun and the blue sky only irritate my shaken nerves."

– Miriam Wattenberg, June 10, 1941

"I simply can't believe that one day I will be allowed to leave this house without the yellow star. Or even that this war will end one day. If this happens I will probably lose my mind from joy."

– Rutka Laskier, February 5, 1943

"It's a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart. It's utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more."

– Anne Frank, July 15, 1944



– Helga Weiss, October 4, 1944

Choose a passage, and write a response. What did you learn about the author's experience? How did the author's account of his or her experiences make you feel?

[illegible]



Name

Date

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