



# Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

## **Movie: Chasing Portraits**

**Time: 1 hour 17 minutes**

**Theme:** Family Legacy

**Summary:** This film is the story of the search for the art of Moshe Rynecki (1881-1943), by his great-granddaughter Elizabeth. Spanning three decades and three generations, Elizabeth begins the incredible task of searching and finding his lost collection while helping her father reconnect with his own Holocaust past. Elizabeth's search takes her to several museums and private collectors in both Warsaw and Israel. Her book, *Chasing Portraits* has led to this documentary. As she discovers each art piece she unfolds a reservoir of stories of the Polish Jews before the Holocaust.

### **Summary Questions:**

1. Why did Elizabeth go to Warsaw?
2. Who was Elizabeth's first contact? How many paintings did he have?
3. How did her father feel about Elizabeth's return to Poland?
4. Which did Elizabeth choose for her search, to be a claimant or a historian?
5. Who is asking Elizabeth why she is surrounding herself with Holocaust books?
6. How did Elizabeth feel about visiting the camp where great-grandfather, Moshe was murdered?
7. What was the difference between the two similar art pieces in the Institute and Edward's private collection?
8. What was her final decision regarding her claim for the Wertheim cousin's art in Israel?
9. What is the final impact on Elizabeth's father when she completed her quest?
10. Why is art history so important?

### **Reflective Questions:**

1. Why did Elizabeth feel that she had to pursue the truth?
2. Why doesn't Elizabeth's father want to return to Poland?
3. Why does Elizabeth constantly surround herself with Holocaust books?
4. What influence did Elizabeth have on the curator of the Jewish institute in Warsaw?
5. Why did she decide to become a historian rather than a claimant?
6. Why did the Polish curators seem to appreciate Moshe's art?
7. How did she feel when she saw her grandfather's self-portrait?
8. How did Elizabeth feel when Edward gave her the painting?
9. Why is art history important?
10. What makes her great-grandfather Moshe's art so special? (he was on the inside looking out)
11. Why did she change her mind and file a claim and become a claimant?
12. Describe the highlights of the letter that she wrote to the Wertheim cousin in Israel?
13. What does her ending phrase "the paintings are survivors too" mean?



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## **Standards:**

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

#### **Subject: Social Studies**

**Strand:** *SS.6.W: World History*

**Standard 1:** *SS.6.W.1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.*

**Benchmark:** *SS.6.W.1.3: Interpret primary and secondary sources*

**Benchmark:** *SS.6.W.1.6: Describe how history transmits culture and heritage and provides models of human character.*

#### **Subject: English Language Arts**

**Strand:** *LAFS.68.RH: Reading standards for literacy in History / Social Studies 612*

**Cluster 1:** *LAFS.68.RH.1: Key ideas and details*

**Benchmark:** *LAFS.68.RH.1.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or a secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.*

**Cluster 3:** *LAFS.68.RH.3: Integration of knowledge and ideas*

**Benchmark:** *LAFS.68.RH.3.9: Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.*

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Subject: Social Studies**

**Strand:** *SS.912.W: World History*

**Standard 1:** *SS.912.W.1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.*

**Benchmark:** *SS.912.W.1.3: Interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources.*

**Benchmark:** *SS.912.W.1.4: Explain how historians use historical inquiry and other sciences to understand the past.*

**Strand:** *SS.912.H: Humanities*

**Standard 1:** *SS.912.H.1: Identify and analyze the historical, social, and cultural contexts of the arts.*

**Benchmark:** *SS.912.H.1.2: Describe how historical events, social context, and culture impact forms, techniques, and purposes of works in the arts, including the relationship between a government and its citizens.*

**Benchmark:** *SS.912.H.1.3: Relate works in the arts to various cultures.*





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