



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

Movie: *Diamonds in the Snow* **Time:** 59 minutes w/sub titles whenever Polish is spoken

Theme: Ordinary people who took extra-ordinary risks

Summary: This film recounts the story of three of the twelve child survivors of Bedzin, Poland who were saved by Polish Christians during the Holocaust. Each of the three reconciles their memories of the events that separated them from their parents and were taken in by Polish families to hide them at the risk of their lives and the lives of their families, were they to be caught. These interviews, of each of the three, documents their recollection of being sent away by their parents and the type of life they lived with their Polish families. Polish adults who were witnesses and one of the descendants of the family are interviewed, offering a detailed account and descriptions of the events in Bedzin, Poland and the killing of the 1000 Jewish children in the town. Ada, Shulamite and Mira are the three child survivors with the first two residing in Israel and Mira, the film-maker residing in the US.

Summary Questions:

1. How long had Jews lived in Bedzin?
2. What's the first thing the Nazis did when they entered Bedzin?
3. How many Jews were chosen to go to Auschwitz in the first selection?
4. What did Alfred Rossner do for the Jews with his factory?
5. What did Mira's mother have to do in order to hide from the Nazis?
6. What religion did Mira have to adopt?
7. When he heard the war was over, how long did it take for Ada's Polish "father" to remember they were locked in a bunker?
8. How many Jews worked in Alfred Rossner's factory?
9. How was Alfred Rossner recognized for his saving Jewish lives?
10. What does Mira's mother find in Auschwitz that helped save her life?

Reflective Questions:

1. How does Mira's mother describe life in Bedzin before the war?
2. Describe how Shulamit was transferred from her mother to Wanda.
3. Describe the scene when the Jews were forced to relocate to the ghetto.
4. Why does Shulamit use the metaphor that her life was like a "trained dog?"
5. Describe the scene of how Mira's parents gave her over to the Polish family.
6. Describe Mira's life with the new Polish family.
7. How did Mira's mother, Dora survive two winters in Auschwitz?
8. What happened to Shulamit after the war when her aunt and uncle came to get her?



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

9. Several Polish citizens were interviewed; describe how they felt about what was happening to the Jews in Bedzin?
10. How did Mira feel after she met adult daughter of the “father” who took care of her?
11. How did Ada feel after the interviews were over?
12. How did Alfred Rossner get to know the Jews in the town?
13. Why did the Jews revere Alfred Rossner?

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.1.6 Describe how history transmits culture and heritage and provides models of human character.

High School

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: **SS.012.G:** Geography

Standard 2: SS.,912.G.2 Understand physical and cultural characteristics of places.

Benchmark: SS.912.G.2.1 Identify the physical characteristics and the human characteristics that define and differentiate regions.

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

Standard 7:SS.912.W.7 Recognize significant causes, events, figures, and consequences of the Great War period and the impact on worldwide balance of power.

Benchmark: SS.912.W.7.5 Describe the rise of authoritarian governments in the Soviet Union, Italy, German and Spain, and analyze the policies and main ideas of Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler and Francisco Franco.

Strand: **SS.912.S:** Sociology

Standard 4: SS.912.S.4 Social Groups/Explore the impacts of social groups on individual and group behavior.

Benchmark: SS.912.S.4.11 Discuss how humans interact in a variety of social settings.

Standard 5 SS.912.S.5 : Social Institutions/Identify the effects of social institutions on individual and group behavior.

Benchmark: SS.912.S.5.1 Identify basic social institutions and explain their impact on individuals, groups and organizations within society and how they transmit the values of society.

Standard 6 SS.912.S.6: Social Change/Examine the changing nature of society.



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

Benchmark: SS.912.S.6.2 *Examine various social influences that can lead to immediate and long-term changes.*

Standard 11 SS.912.P.11: *Cognition Domain/Memory*

Benchmark: SS.912.P.11.12 *Discuss strategies for improving the retrieval of memories.*

Standard 11 SS.912.P.15: *Individual Variations Domain/Emotion*

Benchmark: SS.912.P.15.1 *Explain the biological and cognitive components of emotion.*

With Special Thanks to the Florida Department of Education

