



## Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection

**Movie:** *Rendezvous at Erasmus*

**Time:** 1 hr, 37 minutes

**Dutch/German w/subtitles**

**Theme:** Artistic Resistance

**Summary:** This film tells the story of how two German soldiers were sympathetic to the situation of the Jews in Amsterdam and how they helped them survive. One of the men goes on to return to East Berlin (the GDR) and becomes a world famous illustrator despite the Communist government and with the help of those Dutch who befriended him when he was occupying Holland. The story takes the descendants of Werner Klemke and tries to reconstruct his life and his life's work.

### **Summary Questions:**

1. What was the size of the private library in Klemke's home?
2. What type of documents did Klemke forge during the war?
3. Since his son was not as artistically talented as his daughters, into what occupation did he venture?
4. What was the challenge of the Van Perlstein family's grandfather's marriage in 1941? (He married a Jewess)
5. How did the Van Perlstein family entertain themselves at home during the 10 pm curfew by the Nazis?
6. Klemke's job in the German army was to shoot down British airplanes flying over Holland. How many did he shoot down?
7. What was the reputation of the Erasmus Bookstore during the Nazi occupation? (A place to speak freely)
8. What kind of books was Erasmus famous for keeping? (banned books by the Nazis)
9. What was the process of trying to make Van Perlstein not Jewish called? (Aryanization)
10. What had Van Perlstein done to his country home in order to hide Jews? (Built secret rooms)
11. How did Van Perlstein's friend De Jong get killed? (on his doorstep by a pro-Nazi neighbor)
12. What did the Communist Party charge Klemke's art as? (Formalist)
13. What percent of the Jewish community of the village of Bussem survived the Holocaust? (50%)
14. What job did Klemke turn down that could have gotten him out of East Berlin? (Disney)

### **Reflective Questions:**

1. Describe the van Perlstein families quest to discover what happened during the war.
2. Describe the Werner Klemke's families quest to discover what happened during the war.
3. Compare the way Klemke and van Perlstein dealt with what happened during the war.
4. Describe what happened to the Jews of Amsterdam when the Nazis entered the city.
5. How did the Erasmus Bookstore become a focal point for the underground?
6. Why is this movie entitled "Rendezvous at Erasmus?"
7. What was Klemke's attitude towards the Communists?
8. Why did Sarah van Perlstein Hecht want to prove that her son was not Jewish?
9. How did the Communist try to defame Klemke?



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10. Describe the purpose of the secret rooms that du Jong and van Perlstein created in their chateaus.

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

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

**Benchmark:** *SS.912.S.4.7 Discuss the concept of deviance and how society discourages deviant behavior using social control.*

**Benchmark:** *SS.912.S.4.9 Discuss how formal organizations influence behavior of their members.*

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