



Deafness: Surviving in Silence (Book) Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class Time

Synopsis

As told to his daughter, this book narrates the life of Harry Dunai and his struggles to survive the Holocaust despite his Jewish identity and deafness. In hopes that he would learn to communicate, Harry's family sent him to Budapest to the Jewish Institution for the Deaf. However, when Hungary fell under the Nazi regime, he was not able to return to his family. Consequently, Harry, along with others from the Institute, learned to do whatever it took to avoid deportation to the gas chambers.

Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class:

Title: *Surviving in Silence: A Deaf Boy in the Holocaust* (2002)

Author: Eleanor C. Dunai

Publisher: Gallaudet University Press • Washington, DC

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. What was Harry's birth name and why did he change it?
2. Why did Harry have such a difficult time adjusting to the Jewish Institution for the Deaf?
3. Who was the teacher he loved and what did she do for him when the school was disbanded?
4. What helped Harry move easily from country to country?
5. Harry had a love-hate relationship with Dr. Kanizsai. Although he was a father figure to Harry and protected him, Harry felt that he was too harsh and not trustworthy. Do you think Harry was justified in feeling this way? Explain.
6. Do you think Harry would have been as successful in overcoming barriers caused by his deafness if he had not been so focused on survival? Explain your answer.
7. Do you think his parents made the right decision to send him to the institution? Why or why not?



The contents of this case study were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H325F060003. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Shedeh Hajghassemi.