

Friedrich



ISBN-10 0-14-032205-1

ISBN-13 978-0-14-032205-7

Author Richter, Hans Peter

Publisher Puffin Books

Copyright 1987

Lexile 650L

Genre Historical, Young Adult Fiction

Synopsis In chronological episodes a young boy tells about the fate of his Jewish friend, Friedrich, in Nazi Germany. Friedrich's life becomes a torment as his family is destroyed and he himself is forced into hiding, alone and in secrecy. This is an intense and unforgettable story of the persecution of the German Jews.

Themes Anti-Semitism

Protagonist Male, Jewish

Note Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt *Friedrich*, Day 1



Key Paragraph - 12

“At that moment, we heard a window flung open below us. Herr Resch bellowed, ‘Will you leave my roses in peace, you dirty Jewboy you!’”

Writing Prompt

Write an argumentative paragraph regarding Herr Resch’s treatment of Friedrich. Do you believe that he is acting with justice or restraint when he yells out the window at him? How could he have acted differently? Maintain a formal style of writing in your paragraph and be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Friedrich, Day 2



Key Paragraph - 22

Grandfather got up from the chair. He leaned on the table with his knuckle. So sharply it came out like a snarl, he ordered, "I do not wish the boy to associate with this Jew!" He sat down again as suddenly as he got up.

Writing Prompt

Pretend you are the narrator's mother. You know what a good family the Schneiders are and what a good friend Friedrich is to your son. Write an argumentative paragraph addressed to Grandfather that claims that Friedrich's family are good people. Be clear and concise in your writing and be sure to end your paragraph with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Friedrich, Day 3



Key Paragraph - 37

“One sentence, one sentence only I want hammer into your brains; I will repeat it until it comes out of your ears, and repeat it: The Jews are our affliction! And again: The Jews are our affliction. And another time: *The Jews are our affliction!*”

Writing Prompt

The Nazi representative at the Jungvolk meeting is spreading anti-Semitic propaganda. He is using repetition and emotion to convince the youth that there is something sub-human about Jewish people. Pretend you are the narrator. You know differently. Respond with an argumentative paragraph of your own that begins “Friedrich, a Jewish person is my best friend, not my affliction.” State your opinion. Support it using an example or two from the text as anecdotal evidence. Deal with the opposing Nazi viewpoint. Then restate your opinion. Be logical in your approach.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Friedrich, Day 4



Key Paragraph - 54

"Why are you crying, eh?" the judge asked warmly. "You don't have to worry. Nothing will happen to you. That is why I am here, to see that justice is done."

Friedrich wiped his eyes and said, "*You*, yes!"

Writing Prompt

Write an argumentative paragraph from Friedrich's point of view claiming that, the judge acted with justice. Define justice and define restraint (you may conduct research using print or internet sources to help construct your definitions) in order to help shape your argument. Also, argue that Herr Resch acted with neither justice nor restraint. How are his actions unjust? Be sure to maintain a formal tone throughout your writing and conclude your paragraph with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Friedrich, Day 5



Key Paragraph - 63

“Jews are accused of being crafty and sly. How could they be anything else? Someone who must always live in fear of being tormented and hunted must be very strong in his soul to remain an upright human being.

It is claimed that Jews are avaricious and deceitful. Must they not be both? Again and again they have been dispossessed; again and again, they had to leave everything they owned behind...

...If today or tomorrow you should see Jews being mistreated, reflect on one thing – Jews are human beings, human beings like us!”

Writing Prompt

In the paragraphs above, the teacher uses his opponent’s own statements to turn the tables and win the argument.

Write your own argumentative paragraph that argues in favor of Herr Neudorf’s statement ‘Jews are human beings...like us!’ Use examples from the text to support this claim. How does Herr Neudorf act with justice when he makes this claim? If you were the teacher, would you address the fact that Friedrich is going to a different school? Or would you ignore it? Explain your reasons for your choice. Maintain a formal tone throughout your paragraph, and be sure to conclude your writing with a summary of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Friedrich, Day 6



Key Paragraph - 84

“Herr Neudorf, his former teacher, came into the room. He wished Friedrich all the best on his Bar Mitzvah. Then he gave him a fountain pen. Friedrich’s name had been engraved in gold on the cap.”

Writing Prompt

Herr Neudorf demonstrates respect by attending the Bar Mitzvah, even though it is unpopular. Think about a time you chose to do something unpopular, because you knew it was the right thing to do. Write an argumentative paragraph that claims that others should “do the right thing” even if it means making an unpopular choice. Use the anecdotal evidence from your life to help make your point as well as examples from the novel. Provide an example of a historical figure doing something ‘unpopular’ in order to act with justice. You may conduct research via the internet or authoritative print sources in order to find historical information. Be sure to maintain a formal tone throughout your paragraph and conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Friedrich, Day 7



Key Paragraph – 89 or 92

I too joined the group.

"Today you'll see something boy," the little man promised, "that you can tell your grandchildren about."

I jumped. The glass had belonged to a bookcase. But almost all at once my curiosity awoke. Gently I tapped a cracked pane of glass and it fell out of its frame. By now I was enjoying myself. I swung so hard against the third pane that its splinters fell in bursts to the floor.

Writing Prompt

The narrator states that he found he was enjoying himself as he wreaked destruction on the Jewish Apprentice house. Pretend you are the narrator. Write an argumentative paragraph that warns against allowing oneself to get caught up in the moment. Use an example from today's reading to help make your argument. Include an opposing viewpoint and a concession in getting your point across.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Friedrich, Day 8



Key Paragraph - 117

The longer I hesitated, the more urgent the three faces before me became. "I don't know what to do!" I said very softly. "I don't know."

Writing Prompt

Give the narrator advice on what he should do, or not do. Write an argumentative paragraph that clearly conveys your beliefs; you may provide your own reasoning to back up your thesis statement, but you should also refer to part of the definition of justice provided at the beginning and end of every day's lesson plan. How can the narrator act with justice and restraint? What do you recommend he do? What would you do in his situation? Be logical in your approach. Conclude by restating your claims; be sure to maintain a formal tone throughout your writing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Friedrich, Day 9



Key Paragraph – 127-128

The stillness seemed to have lasted forever, when Friedrich spit into Herr Resch's face. "Vulture!" he screamed. "Vulture!"

Writing Prompt

Pretend you are Friedrich. Write an argumentative paragraph from his perspective that supports your actions, namely calling Herr Resch a vulture. What do you mean by using this phrase? How is Herr Resch a vulture? Be concise and clear in your writing; maintain a formal tone. Be sure to conclude your writing with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Friedrich, Day 10



Key Paragraph –136

"Do pull yourself together!" begged Father. "You'll endanger us all otherwise."

Writing Prompt

This book attempts to answer the questions "How did it come to be that the whole world stood watching as the Nazis attempted to exterminate an entire people?" "How could this have happened?" Fear for safety, fear for family, the possibility of one's own greater success, greed, learned hatred and prejudice – all certainly contributed. Having learned this, write a paragraph or two that persuades others not to let this happen again. Write an argumentative paragraph that responds to this question. Use examples from the book to help you build a strong argument. (A possible thesis statement might read, "Only we can prevent the Holocaust from ever happening again.") Be concise in your writing, and be sure to conclude your writing with a reiteration of your claim. You may use authoritative print or internet sources to research details to use in your paragraph.