

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1. converge
2. bombardment

- a. came together
- b. attacked with guns or bombs

1. The players _____ on the soccer field to listen to the coach's instructions.
2. After the _____ ended, many beautiful buildings had been damaged or completely destroyed.

Questions: Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why did the narrator call himself "Stopthief"?

2. Who were the boys that the narrator met in the stable? Why did they steal?

3. Why weren't the boys eager to have Stopthief join their group? How did Uri convince them otherwise?

4. Why was it fairly easy for the boys to steal food?

5. How did Uri and the boys conclude that Stopthief was a Gypsy and not a Jew like them?

6. Why did Uri take Stopthief to an abandoned building?

7. Why did Uri create a name and a family background for Stopthief?

Literary Elements: Setting –Setting refers to the time and place where the events of a novel occur. What is the setting of Milkweed?

How does the setting determine the events in this novel?

Point of View – Point of View in literature refers to the person telling the story. This person is called the narrator. the narrator might be the author or a character in the story. From whose point of view is this story told?

Why do you think the author chose this point of view?

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Questions: Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why were Uri and “Misha” forced to leave their hiding place in the barbershop building?

2. How did Misha try to lure Janina out of her house?

3. What did Uri mean when he said he believed in angels?

4. Why did Uri mean when he said he believed in bread? What did this statement reveal about him?

5. Why were the trees disappearing in Warsaw?

6. Why were “black peals” valuable?

7. Why did Dr. Korczak have all of the orphans in his house thank Misha?

8. Why were so many of the Warsaw’s Jews walking in the streets carrying possessions with them?

Literary Elements: Personification – Personification is a figure of speech in which an author grants human qualities to a nonhuman object. For example:

One, a thick, burly monster of a tree with warts, came down with a high, thin wail that sounded exactly like a baby crying.

What is being personified?

What does this reveal about the narrator’s feelings?

Symbolism – A symbol in literature is an object, person, or event that represents an idea or a set of ideas. What do you think the black horse on the merry-go-round might have symbolized?

What do you think the fox-face furs with beady black eyes symbolize?

Milkweed

Chapter 16 – 22

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- 1. heeded
- 2. jackboot

- a. a soldier who wears a laceless military boot reaching to the calf
- b. paid attention to

Questions: Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why did the people hurry to reach the ghetto?

2. Why had Mr. Milgrom carried his bottles of medicine all the way across the city?

3. How did the Jackpoots regard Gypsies, Jews, and disabled people? Why were all these groups the same in their eyes?

4. Why was a wall built around the Warsaw Ghetto?

5. Why were Misha and the boys evicted from the stable?

6. Why were dead bodies a common sight in the ghetto?

7. What evidence showed that the residents of the ghetto were starving?

8. Why did Misha slip out of the ghetto from time to time? Why was he able to do this?

9. Why did Uri attack one of the flops?

10. Why were people in the ghetto concerned about the rumor that Himmler would be coming to the ghetto?

Literary Elements: Characterization – As you read about the people in *Milkweed*, fill in the character chart below. Make notes of any special or unusual qualities of each character. You may add other characters to the chart. Choose four other characters to complete the chart.

Character	About the Character
Misha	
Uri	
Janina	
Dr. Korczak	
Mr. Milgrom	

Uncle Shepsel	

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Vocabulary: Word analogies are equations in which the first pair of words has the same relationship as the second pair of words. For example, TINY is to HUGE as EXCITING is to BORING. Both pair of words are opposites. Choose a word from the Word Box to complete each of the analogies below.

WORD BOX

contrary tormented goad

1. PEACEFUL is to EXCITED as _____ is to AGREEABLE.
2. _____ is to TORTURE as WANDER is to ROAM.
3. PULL is to TUG as _____ is to PUSH

Questions: Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why was Misha unable to believe that the man in the car was actually Himmler?

2. Why did Misha tease and taunt Buffo? Why were these pranks dangerous?

3. How did the relationship between Misha and Janina gradually change after Misha was accepted as one of the Milgrom family?

4. How did Misha help the Milgroms and the orphans to survive?

5. Why were crows the only birds to visit the ghetto?

6. What made Misha “the perfect smuggler?”

7. Why was Janina surprised to discover that the city outside the ghetto still existed?

8. Why did Misha want to prevent Janina from joining him on his smuggling raids?

9. What were the Flamethrowers trying to accomplish?

10. How did Janina manage to continue smuggling without “disobeying” her father?

Literary Elements: Symbolism – What do you think milkweed symbolizes?

Milkweed

Chapter 31 – 36

Vocabulary: Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its synonym in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- A
1. veering
 2. lurking

- B
- a. sneaking
 - b. turning

1. The policeman noticed a suspicious man _____ around the bank and ordered him to move on.
2. The group of runners was _____ to the right to avoid a patch of rough ground.

Questions: Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why did Uri order Misha never to speak to him?

2. Why did the Jackboots hang Olek?

3. How did Mr. Milgrom try to shield Misha and Janina from the bombs?

4. What happened to make life in the ghetto even worse than it had been before?

5. Why did Mr. Milgrom decide to celebrate Hanukkah in the midst of all the suffering?

6. How did Misha's physical growth threaten his survival?

7. Why did Uncle Shepsel convince himself that he was a Lutheran?

8. Why did Uri advise Misha to get out of the ghetto?

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Chapter 37 – 45

Questions: Answer each question with a minimum of one complete sentence.

1. Why did the people of the ghetto prefer the word “resettlement” to the word “deportation”? What was the underlying significance of these words?

2. What was the quota that the Jackboots had to fill each day?

3. Why did the ragged man return to the ghetto? How did most people respond to what he told them?

4. Why did Mr. Milgrom try to send Misha and Janina away from the ghetto?

5. Why was it finally impossible for Misha to protect Janina from the Jackboots?

6. Who was the Jackboot who shot off Misha's ear? Why do you think he did it?

7. How did the farmer's wife help Misha survive after he left the ghetto?

8. How did Misha survive immediately after the war ended?

9. What ruined Misha's marriage?

10. How did Misha finally find peace?
