

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Vocabulary:

## "The Children Who Escaped the Nazis"

**1. advocate (AD-vuh-kit)** *noun* or **(AD-vuh-kayt)** *verb*; An advocate is a person who supports or argues for the interests of another person, group, or cause. Advocates often speak, write, or take action to defend something they believe in. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a passionate advocate for civil rights.

As a verb, *advocate* means "to support, recommend, or argue for something or someone—to act as an advocate." The student council might advocate for healthier snack choices in the school's vending machines by writing a letter to the principal.

**2. anti-Semitism (an-tee-SEM-i-tiz-uhm)** *noun*; A Semite (SEM-ahyt) is a person who speaks a Semitic (suh-MIT-ik) language. Arabic and Hebrew—which is spoken by many Jewish people—are among the Semitic languages. An anti-Semite is a person who is prejudiced against Jewish people in particular. Anti-Semitism is prejudice, discrimination, or hostility toward Jewish people because of their religion or ethnicity.

**3. denounce (dih-NOWNS)** *verb*; To denounce something is to publicly state that it is bad or wrong. If a world leader denounces the use of violence, he or she is expressing strong disapproval of violence.

**4. embittered (em-BIT-ehrd)** *adjective*; The adjective *bitter* can refer to a strong and not at all sweet flavor, like that of coffee or dark chocolate. *Bitter* can also refer to an emotion; if you are bitter, you are angry and unhappy because you feel you've been treated unfairly.

The verb *embitter* means "to cause someone to feel bitter."

If someone is embittered, he or she has been made to feel angry and resentful by something unpleasant or unfair that happened to him or her.

**5. herculean (hur-kyoo-LEE-uhn)** *adjective*; In Roman mythology, Hercules (HUR-kyuh-leez) is a god who possesses exceptional strength. A herculean task is one that requires great strength, courage, or effort. Firefighters might make a herculean effort to put out a rapidly spreading wildfire.

**6. mitigate (MIT-i-gayt)** *verb*; To mitigate something is to make it less severe, harsh, or painful—to ease it. Wearing a helmet mitigates head injury. If you're nervous about doing something, talking to someone who has already done it might mitigate your concerns.

**7. ostracize (AHS-truh-sahyz)** *verb*; To ostracize someone is to exclude him or her from a group—in other words, to not allow that person to be part of a group. If the kids at school ostracize Megan, they shut her out—they don't let her join in their conversations or participate in group activities.

**8. oust (owst)** *verb*; To oust someone is to force that person out of a position or a place—basically, to kick him or her out. If Tara is ousted from first place in a competition, it means that someone else got a better score than her and is now in first place instead. If your parents are trying to watch a movie and you are making a lot of noise, they might oust you from the room.

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**Directions:** In the space below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

# Vocabulary Practice

## "The Children Who Escaped the Nazis"

**Directions:** Choose the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

**1. mitigate**

- Ⓐ lighten                      Ⓑ worsen

**2. oust**

- Ⓐ take in                      Ⓑ push out

**3. denounce**

- Ⓐ compliment              Ⓑ criticize

**4. embittered**

- Ⓐ resentful                      Ⓑ joyful

**Directions:** For each question below, fill in the circle next to the best answer.

**5. Which of the following might cause you to feel embittered?**

- Ⓐ getting a free ice cream sundae for being the 100th customer of the day at Tastee Cone  
Ⓑ realizing that you were tricked into doing something you didn't want to do

**6. For which of the following might a doctor advocate?**

- Ⓐ exercising at least three times a week  
Ⓑ eating a diet that consists mostly of candy

**Directions:** Rewrite each sentence using a form of one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

mitigate    herculean    ostracize    anti-Semitism

**7. I moved the couch from one side of the living room to the other all by myself—an extremely difficult task.**

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**8. When Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany, he encouraged hatred of Jewish people.**

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**9. Alex's friends apologized for excluding him from their lunch table after their argument.**

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