

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"Teens Against Hitler"

1. According to the article, how was Hitler able to gain so much support for his hateful ideas and beliefs? (key ideas and details)
2. Empathy is the feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions. How does Lauren Tarshis create empathy for Ben Kamm? (author's craft)
3. Tarshis writes that stories about the partisans offered a "glint of hope" to boys like Ben in the Warsaw ghetto. Why would stories about the partisans give such boys hope? (inference)
4. Answer the question on page 9: What does the journal entry help you understand about the partisans' experience? (text features; central ideas)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

"Teens Against Hitler"

1. What risks did Ben Kamm take in joining the partisans? Why do you think he decided to take those risks? Support your ideas with details from the text.
2. On page 10, Tarshis describes Kamm in 2010. She writes that his face is "shockingly free of bitterness." How is it possible to avoid feeling bitter when something horrible has been done to you? Do you think it's important to avoid feelings of bitterness?
3. Tarshis writes, "The Nazis and their sympathizers, [Ben] realized, did not see [the Jews] as humans. He felt like an animal—a helpless animal." To treat someone as though he or she is not human is to *dehumanize* that person. How can stories like "Teens Against Hitler" reverse or fight dehumanization?