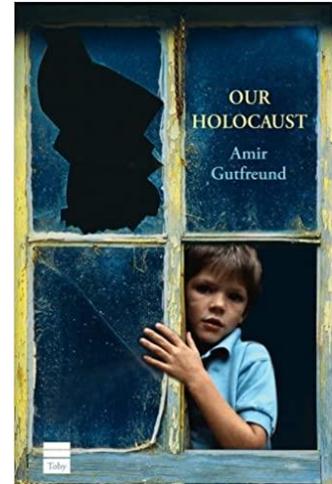


Our Holocaust

Amir Gutfreund

Reading Group Questions

1. Is it important that this text is semi-autobiographical? Does it create a sense of authenticity?
2. What is the “Law of Compression” and how does it play a big role in *Our Holocaust*?
3. How are themes of sanity and humanity presented in the book? Are they the main themes?
4. How does Gutfreund present the paradoxical nature of the good and bad Germans? What do you think of his views of German people?
5. How do things at the start of the novel differ from things at the end of the novel?
6. Who is your favourite character and why?
7. Why is it so deeply important for Amir and Effi to know about the Holocaust?
8. The Holocaust survivors in the neighbourhood are described as having two types of past: “what did you do during the war” and “where you came from before the war”. How does this reflect how their lives are moulded by the Holocaust?
9. How does the “kaleidoscope of memories” mirror how the story is told?
10. Was Amir right to feel anger and distance himself from Anat for who her grandfather was?
11. How far does the novel endorse Grandpa Lolek’s bitter view of the world, and his opinion that “people have to die of something”?
12. What part of the book is the climax of the novel and why?



A Survivors Perspective

Edith Goldberg

Edith Goldberg's attitudes towards 'speaking out' are very similar to Peter's. Edith states that for some time she didn't feel able to visit Auschwitz, and that whenever a TV programme was on about the Holocaust, she would switch it off. For nearly 20-30 years, she never spoke about it. She says that in life 'you've got to go with the flow', and try to move past the trauma. However, when she saw that schools were teaching *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, a fictional account of the Holocaust, she felt she had to speak out to stop her experience being misrepresented, much like Peter does.



<https://holocaustlearning.org.uk/stories/edith-goldberg/>