

# YOM HASHOAH : HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (Secondary Level)

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## ANALYZING

1. Read Joseph Cooper's biography in the student handout, and watch his [video testimony](#). Then read the Partisan Hymn.
2. Complete this sentence:

"The connections between Joseph Cooper's testimony and the Partisan Hymn are that they both..."

OR

"The differences between Joseph Cooper's testimony and the Partisan Hymn are..."



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Joseph Cooper was born in 1923 in Kielce, Poland. He grew up in a middle-class Orthodox Jewish family as the second youngest of ten children.

When the Germans occupied Poland in 1939, Joseph went to work in a stone mine to support his family. In the spring of 1940, the Nazis set up the Kielce ghetto.

In August 1942, after a roundup, the Nazis deported Joseph's parents and seven of his siblings to the Treblinka death camp. The Kielce ghetto was liquidated in the spring of 1943 and Joseph was deported to the Pionki labour camp, where he was forced to load coal to be used by the factories producing ammunition.

In 1944, Joseph and his brother were taken to the Sosnowitz concentration camp, a sub-camp of Auschwitz III. When the camp was evacuated in January 1945, Joseph was forced to go on a death march toward Germany. Of the 900 prisoners who left Sosnowitz, only some 250 arrived at Mauthausen. Joseph attempted several unsuccessful escapes. He spent two months in forced labour in Mauthausen until he was taken to the Ebensee concentration camp in the spring of 1945.

The American army liberated the camp on May 6, 1945. Joseph and his brother immigrated to Canada via Italy in May 1948. Joseph sang with the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto and in 1954 he moved to New York to study cantorial singing. When he returned, he became the cantor of Toronto's Beth Tzedek Congregation, the largest conservative synagogue in Canada, where he served for 49 years.



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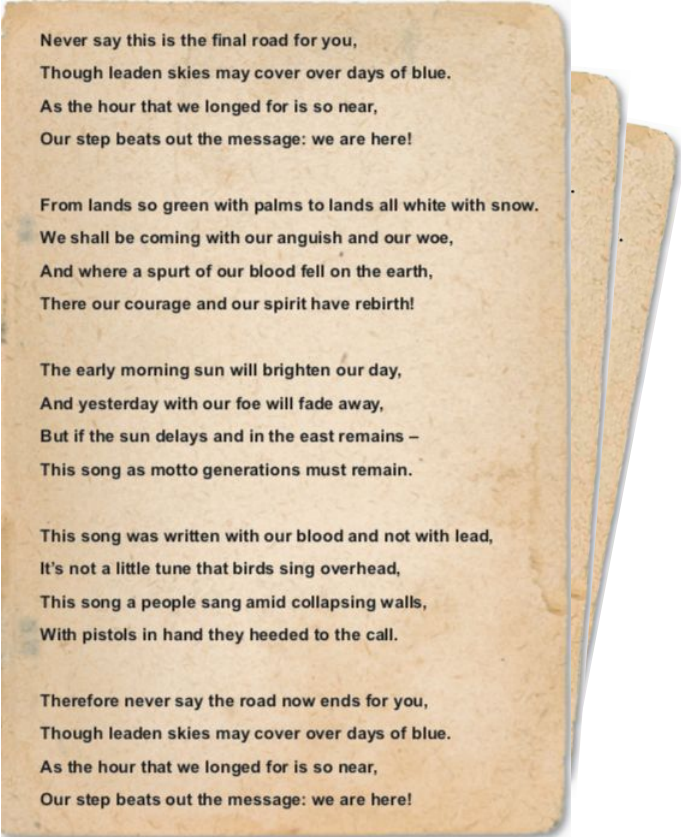
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## READINGS

### Partisan Hymn

Lithuanian Jewish poet **Hirsch Glick** (1922-1944) was involved in the Vilna ghetto's artistic activities and underground movement during the war, and participated in the ghetto uprising in 1942.

Glick was later deported to a concentration camp in Estonia. As the Soviet troops were approaching, he escaped and is presumed to have been killed by the Germans.



Never say this is the final road for you,  
Though leaden skies may cover over days of blue.  
As the hour that we longed for is so near,  
Our step beats out the message: we are here!

From lands so green with palms to lands all white with snow.  
We shall be coming with our anguish and our woe,  
And where a spurt of our blood fell on the earth,  
There our courage and our spirit have rebirth!

The early morning sun will brighten our day,  
And yesterday with our foe will fade away,  
But if the sun delays and in the east remains –  
This song as motto generations must remain.

This song was written with our blood and not with lead,  
It's not a little tune that birds sing overhead,  
This song a people sang amid collapsing walls,  
With pistols in hand they heeded to the call.

Therefore never say the road now ends for you,  
Though leaden skies may cover over days of blue.  
As the hour that we longed for is so near,  
Our step beats out the message: we are here!

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## ANALYZING

3. Read the “Resistance and Uprising” information sheet in the student handout and explain what kind of resistance Joseph Cooper was involved in.



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## TO GO FURTHER

4. Watch another testimony from the [Resistance](#) section of the Montreal Holocaust Museum's *Survivors' Stories*.
5. In a few words, introduce the survivor and what he/she described in the video clip. What form of resistance was he/she involved in?
6. How is his/her experience similar to or different from Joseph Cooper's experience?
7. To conclude, what did you learn about Jewish resistance during the Holocaust?



RESISTANCE

**Saul Reichert**

Saul Reichert recalls how the high holidays were secretly celebrated in Birkenau in 1944.

Listen



RESISTANCE

**Jacques Neufeld**

Jacques Neufeld recalls how he helped smuggle Jews out of the Rivesaltes transit camp in France.

Listen



RESISTANCE

**Sam Goldwasser**

Sam Goldwasser recalls how he blew up German trains with his partisan unit as a 14-year-old boy.

Listen



RESISTANCE

**Zlatka Pitluk**

Zlatka Pitluk recalls an unforgettable birthday in Auschwitz.

Listen



RESISTANCE

**Jack Klajman**

Jack Klajman describes his experience during the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

Listen