



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR YOM HASHOAH (Secondary level)

1. Read Ursula Feist's [biography](#) (p.3-4) and watch her [testimony](#). Then read Primo Levi's poem [If This Is A Man](#) (p.5).
2. Complete this sentence:
The connections between Ursula Feist's testimony and the poem are that they both
3. Read the "[Children in the Holocaust](#)" information sheet (p. 6). In the table below, compile a list of events or experiences from this document that relate to Ursula's story. In the second column, choose a sentence from Ursula's testimony or biography that illustrates each chosen event or experience.

Children in the Holocaust	Ursula's testimony



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

Ursula Feist's biography

Ursula Feist was born in 1921 to an assimilated Jewish family in Berlin, Germany. Her father worked in a bank and they lived comfortably until Hitler rose to power. Ursula went to public school, where most of her friends were not Jewish. In 1935, she was expelled because she was Jewish and had to continue her education in a Jewish private school. After finishing elementary school, Ursula attended a commercial college. When she graduated, she found a job at an Italian travel agency, where she worked for 6 months until [Kristallnacht](#).

As the Jews were gradually isolated socially and economically, her father's permit for the stock exchange was revoked and the family experienced financial difficulties. After Kristallnacht, Ursula's father was interned in the Sachsenhausen [concentration camp](#) for 8 weeks. When he was released, he was told that the family had to leave Germany. Through her work at the travel agency, Ursula managed to get tickets to Shanghai for her sister and their parents. They survived the war in Shanghai, albeit under very harsh conditions, interned by the Japanese, along with other refugees from Germany and the occupied German countries. After the war, they immigrated to the United States.

Ursula managed to get on the [Kindertransport](#) in 1939, two weeks before her 18th birthday. She was taken in by a Quaker family in the north of England, who treated her as their own daughter. She had an aunt in Birmingham and she went to live with her to train as a nurse. Ursula was also interned for a year on the Isle of Man, where she worked in the camp office. She met her husband, David, through his aunt who was interned with her. David had immigrated to London from Prague in 1938. During the war, he was in the army and in the intelligence corps. They married in 1943 and their first son, Anthony, was born in London in 1948.

They immigrated to Canada in 1951, where their second son, Daniel, was born 3 years later. Ursula worked in the Neurological Hospital, then in the Royal Victoria as administrative assistant to the chief of surgery. Ursula has four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Vocabulary	Definition
Kristallnacht	(German, literally “Night of Crystal”): Name given to violent attacks (pogrom) against the businesses, places of worship and homes of the Jews throughout Germany and in the annexed countries (Austria and Sudetenland) on November 9 and 10, 1938. The violence was implemented by Nazi leaders. The sound of broken glass explains the name given to the event.
Concentration camp	Any internment camp for holding “enemies of the Third Reich”. The construction of concentration camps began almost immediately after Hitler came to power. Thousands of camps were established during the war.
Kindertransport	(German, literally “children’s transport”): Program developed in Great Britain to rescue Jewish children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland between 1938 and 1940. About 10,000 unaccompanied children (mostly Jews) were sent to live with host families in England.



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

If This Is A Man Primo Levi

This poem, written in Turin in January 1947, introduced the book of the same title, by Italian Jewish writer Primo Levi. In his book, he describes his arrest, deportation and imprisonment in Auschwitz from February 1944 to its liberation in January 1945.

You who live safe In your warm houses,
You who find, returning in the evening,
Hot food and friendly faces:

Consider if this is a man
Who works in the mud,
Who does not know peace,
Who fights for a scrap of bread,
Who dies because of a yes or a no.

Consider if this is a woman
Without hair and without name,
With no more strength to remember,
Her eyes empty and her womb cold
Like a frog in winter.

Meditate that this came about:
I commend these words to you.

Carve them in your hearts

At home, in the street,

Going to bed, rising;

Repeat them to your children.

Or may your house fall apart,
May illness impede you,
May your children turn their faces from you.



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

Children in the Holocaust

Approximately 1.5 million children were murdered during the Holocaust. The discrimination against and exclusion of Jewish children increased in the 1930s with the Nazis rising to power. With the invasion of Poland and the start of World War II, their situation became increasingly precarious: they were forced into ghettos with their families, many starved and fell prey to disease, and many witnessed violence against or the murder of their parents. They too were subject to violence and murder.

When the Nazis began deportations and mass killings, many children were killed immediately. Some managed to flee and live in hiding, with their relatives or through help from kind and courageous non-Jews. Others survived by their own wits. Many were so young when they were separated from their parents, that they forgot their real identity and their past.

By the time liberation came, numerous children were left orphaned, without siblings or extended family. Through the efforts of the Canadian Jewish Congress and the War Orphans Project, orphaned children were among the first Jews allowed into Canada after the War.

<http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/virtual-exhibits/exhibit/open-hearts-closed-doors-the-war-orphans-project/>

Excerpt from the *Montreal Holocaust Museum Commemoration Guide*, p. 19