

TITLE: Stranger on the Bus

BOOK: Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul

PAGE: 134

TIME TO READ: 1 minute

TOPICS: Acting with Kindness
History—Nazi Germany/Holocaust
Making a difference
Changing the world

AGE LEVEL: Grades 5 and up

SYNOPSIS: A stranger on a bus pretends that a young Jewish woman is his wife in order to protect her from the SS.

NOTES TO TEACHER:

Review some Nazi history before reading this to younger students.

We have included a wonderfully warm story about a Holocaust survivor in the book. It is titled “She Didn’t Pray for a Miracle,” and contains a single, multi-level plan for your use.

Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul
Stranger on the Bus

ELEMENTARY:

PRE-QUESTIONS:

Have you ever helped a total stranger with anything (*i.e. picked up a dropped article, held a door, given directions, etc*)?

- How did it *feel*?

Is there anything in the world *so important* to you that you might consider risking your life for it?

- If so, what is it?

Read Story

POST-QUESTIONS:

Why was Sussie crying on the bus?

What were the SS looking for on the bus?

What would they have done had they found out that Sussie was a Jew?

How did the stranger on the bus save Sussie?

Was this stranger in any danger for lying to the SS?

- If so, what?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Pretend you are Sussie.

Write a letter to the stranger, thanking him.

Discuss smaller acts of “heroism.”

Establish a “Classroom Hero” bulletin board (*stopping a bully, tutoring someone, etc.*).

Put up pictures of any student exhibiting “daily heroism.”

Do further research and discussion of the Holocaust.

Draw a picture of something about this story.

Get in small groups and act out the story for the class.