

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

PRE-QUESTIONS:

In small groups, brainstorm acts of kindness that could be shown to a stranger (*i.e. holding a door, returning a wallet, etc.*).

Is there anything so *important* to you that you would risk your life for it?

- If so, what is it?

**Read Story**

POST-QUESTIONS:

What does it mean to be a hero? (*a person who possesses exceptional qualities, or who does something outstanding, often saving the life of another person*).

Does one have to risk one's life in order to be a hero?

- Explain your answer.

What did the stranger do that made him a hero in this story?

Do you think you would have done the same thing?

- Explain your answer.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Rewrite this story as a piece of poetry, seen through the eyes of the stranger.

Rewrite this story as if the stranger had *not* come to Sussie's rescue.

Go on-line and explore any modern-day heroes. <http://myhero.com>

Write about one of them.

- Why did you choose this one.

Do further research and discussion on the Holocaust or Nazi Germany.

Write a short script of this story, and act out this play for other classes.