

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

HIGH SCHOOL:

PRE-QUESTIONS:

List any acts of kindness you have shown to a stranger.

List any acts of kindness you have witnessed.

Read Story

POST-QUESTIONS:

Discuss other periods in history where people risked their lives for others (*any war, "Underground Railroad," firemen on 9-11-01, police officers , etc.*).

On a PBS Special, Dr. Wayne Dyer indicated that " . . .*any act of kindness increased the serotonin levels in the giver, the receiver, and the observer . . . and enhanced their immune system . . .*"

Discuss the world-wide implications of this quote.

Discuss what violence, or witnessing acts of evil, might do to our brain chemistry . . or to the world.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

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

Choreograph a dance that reflects this story. Perform it for other classes.

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 continued research and discussion on the Holocaust or Nazi Germany.

Watch "Schindler's List." Do further research on Oskar Schindler.

- See Resources p. ### for full citation.

Read "Night," by Elie Wiesel. See Resources p. ### for full citation.

Find any Jewish classmates, or community members that might tell their true family stories of the Holocaust.

Review any works of art that symbolize this period in time.

Visit a Holocaust Museum at some point in your life.