

# “Poisoning” the Minds of the Young

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Julius Streicher, publisher of  
*Der Giftpilz*

**Highlight three facts in the following paragraphs that you think will be relevant information for you to know when reading about this book:**

“*Der Giftpilz* is a children's book published by Julius Streicher in 1938. He was executed as a war criminal in 1946. The title is German for "the poisonous mushroom/toadstool". The book was intended as antisemitic propaganda. The text is by Ernst Hiemer, with illustrations by Philipp Rupprecht (also known as *Fips*); the title alludes to how, just as it is difficult to tell a poisonous mushroom from an edible mushroom, it is difficult to tell a Jew apart from a Gentile. The book wants to "warn" German children about the dangers allegedly posed by Jews to them personally, and to German society in general. A copy of the book is on display at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D. C. An English-language translation of the book was produced by U.S. neo-Nazi activist Gary Lauck, and thereafter marketed on his website for \$10. Lauck also produced an Estonian language translation in 2007, and claims to be

working on translations into many other languages. The Estonian Internal Security Service have investigated the case under the section of Estonian penal code criminalizing incitement to social hatred, but concluded that it is unlikely to have the jurisdiction or means to prosecute the author, as under American law, websites are covered by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der\\_Giftpilz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der_Giftpilz)

Front page of Gary Lauck’s website promoting copies of  
*The Poisonous Mushroom*

**In your journals, answer one or all of the following questions in your second entry. Remember to label it Journal 2 and put today’s date:**

Has studying the education system in Germany during this time period had an impact on how you see your own education? How? Why?

When it comes to education, what do you think the role of the teacher, the student, and the parent are when it comes to what is being taught and how it is being taught in the classroom?

Do you feel as if you have encountered any propaganda in a classroom or school in your educational career thus far? Give a specific example and how it affected you.

# The Poisonous Mushroom

---

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

When looking at the cover of the book (on the outside of your folder), what elements of the propaganda picture do you notice that tell you that the book is about the Jews? List at least three below:

What can you infer is the central idea of the book from the cover picture? Give a specific example to support your point, answering in a complete sentence:

---

### *The Poisonous Mushroom Title Story:*

What are three important details you notice about the picture that goes with the story?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Where does the boy in the story learn all of the facts about the Jews? Why is this alarming?

The mother uses a metaphor comparing all of the Jews to a poisonous mushroom in the story. List three ways she tells her son that the Jews are like a poisonous mushroom:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

GIVE A SENTENCE FROM THE TEXT THAT YOU BELIEVE IS POISONOUS, based on context and connotation. Give the EXACT wording and put quotation marks around it.	HOW IS THIS SENTENCE POISONOUS, based on the connotation in the text? Give <u>at least</u> one complete thought to support your point.

## **How to Tell a Jew Story:**

What are three things you can learn from this picture about this class in school?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

While reading the story, bullet point a list of what the story teaches young children about the physical appearance and behaviors of the Jews:

Physical Appearance of the Jews	Behaviors of the Jews

Give one simile that the story uses and explain how it helps young readers understand the subject matter better:

Simile: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVE A SENTENCE FROM THE TEXT THAT YOU BELIEVE IS POISONOUS, based on context and connotation. Give the EXACT wording and put quotation marks around it.	HOW IS THIS SENTENCE POISONOUS, based on the connotation in the text? Give <u>at least</u> one complete thought to support your point.

Do you believe that this book should be reprinted for people to buy now? Why or why not? Answer in a complete sentence.


# The Poisonous Mushroom Self-Study

*You will be reading five of the stories in The Poisonous Mushroom collection. Answer the questions about those passages below. Keep in mind that these are propaganda stories full of lies and distortions and that Julius Streicher, the publisher, even received the death penalty for this and other propaganda publications because they were seen as so influential in the manipulation of young German minds.*

On the envelope you have, what group are you (it is at the bottom of the title page)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Find the two-page story in your envelope and put the title here:**

What about the picture with the story attracts and holds your attention? Why?

What is a line from the story that you would consider the most “poisonous” or manipulative?

Summarize the specific message of this story that you think the children were meant to learn:

**Title of one page story:**

**Title of one page story:**

What about the picture with the story attracts and holds your attention? Why?

What about the picture with the story attracts and holds your attention? Why?

What is a line from the story that you would consider the most “poisonous” or manipulative?

What is a line from the story that you would consider the most “poisonous” or manipulative?

Summarize the specific message of this story that you think the children were meant to learn in one complete sentence:

Summarize the specific message of this story that you think the children were meant to learn in one complete sentence.

**Title of one page story:**

**Title of one page story:**

What about the picture with the story attracts and holds your attention? Why?

What about the picture with the story attracts and holds your attention? Why?

What is a line from the story that you would consider the most “poisonous” or manipulative?

What is a line from the story that you would consider the most “poisonous” or manipulative?

Summarize the specific message of this story that you think the children were meant to learn in one complete sentence:

Summarize the specific message of this story that you think the children were meant to learn in one complete sentence:

# The Poisonous Mushroom Self-Study

*Which of the stories that you read do you think had the largest negative impact on the audience of children it was read to? Why? Answer in complete sentences:*


Talk to two other classmates who have different stories from you (a different letter group on the front of their envelopes) and ask them to share about which of their stories they thought had the largest negative impact on children. Write down the following information:

Classmate 1 Name: _____ Group Letter: _____	Classmate 2 Name: _____ Group Letter: _____
Name of story:	Name of story:
Main message of the story:	Main message of the story:
Reason that they chose it as the most negative influence:	Reason that they chose it as the most negative influence:

**Read the reviews of *The Poisonous Mushroom* from Amazon below. Do you think that Amazon should take these reviews down? Why or why not? Answer in at least one complete sentence:**


 Amazon Customer

★★★★★ a thorough look at jewish supremacy and racism

March 18, 2018

Format: Paperback

A thorough look at how Jewish supremacy and racism was rampant in Germany and how Jewish supremacists use anti-white propaganda and deceit to target whites today.

Helpful

1 comment

Report abuse

 Scott Evans

★★★★★ Great for bedtime stories

January 18, 2018

Format: Paperback

Great for bedtime stories. My kids loved it. This should help negate some of the Talmudic brainwashing they learn in school!

