

SOME WERE NEIGHBORS

COLLABORATION & COMPLICITY IN THE HOLOCAUST

PHOTO ACTIVITY: DECONSTRUCTING THE FAMILIAR

Divide into groups of two or three. Each group should have one photograph. Examine the photograph and answer the questions in Section I.

SECTION I

How many people are in the photograph? How many men and women? Are they young or old?

Describe and differentiate the people by the clothing worn.

On the most general level, what is the setting or location? Where was the photograph taken (e.g., outside, on the street, inside, etc.)?

Describe, if possible, the relationship between the individuals, or groups of individuals, in the photograph.

If objects are a central focus of the photograph, list them and describe the relationship between the objects and the individuals.

Based on your observations, what do you think is happening in the photograph? Write a caption for the photograph.

When you have completed Section I, wait for the next set of instructions before moving on to Section 2.

SECTION 2

Complete Section 2 after receiving and reading the caption for the photograph. Discuss and record your answers to the following questions. These questions focus on the non-Jewish individuals present in the photographs.

Knowing what you now know about the photograph ...

How would you label the individuals present in the photograph: helpers, Nazi helpers, willing helpers, unwilling helpers, a combination of these, or none of these? Explain your answer and the reasons you used in making it.

In order for the Holocaust to have happened, how necessary was the action taking place in the photograph? If more than one behavior is occurring, rate each action separately.

1
(Not at all necessary)

3

5
(Neutral)

7

10
(Absolutely necessary)

Explain your choice:

What might be the motivations of, or the pressures on, the individuals for their actions?

List as many as you think might explain their actions.

What additional questions does this photograph raise?
