



# Oskar Schindler

## • Reading Comprehension •

### Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.  
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.  
Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

World War II ends in 1945. The Jews are free.  
Oskar must hide from the Nazis and the Allies.  
The Nazis call him a Jew-lover. The Allies call him a war criminal.

**Stop and think:** Why must Oskar hide from the Nazis and the Allies?

Oskar and his wife have no money. Jewish groups help to support them.  
Oskar and his wife move to Argentina in 1949.

**Stop and think:** How do you think Oskar feels about leaving Germany?

He tries to make money as a farmer. But he fails.  
Oskar is not happy.

**Stop and think:** Imagine you are Oskar.  
You have always been good at making money.  
How do you feel now? Why?



## Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Good readers can find the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea. The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand and remember the main idea.

Read the details.

Circle the correct main idea.

The first one is an example.

| Main idea   | Details  |
|---|--|
| Oskar is married but likes other women.<br>Oskar wants to profit from the war.<br>Oskar risks his life to save his workers. | (a) Oskar is a complex person.<br>(b) Oskar cares only about his Jewish workers.                   |
| Oskar deals on the black market.<br>Oskar lies to the Nazis.<br>Oskar spends time in jail.                                  | 1(a) Oskar is a person that you cannot trust.<br>(b) Oskar takes risks to help his Jewish workers. |
| Many Jewish workers go to Oskar's funeral.<br>The Jewish community supports Oskar.<br>Oskar is buried in Israel.            | 2(a) Oskar respects the Jewish community.<br>(b) The Jewish community respects Oskar.              |

## Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

Read the writer's words.

Figure out the invisible message.

| The writer's words  | The invisible message              |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Women, wealth, and whiskey. The three "Ws" are big in Oskar's life. | <i>Oskar enjoys the good life.</i> |
| 1. Oskar is married, but he still sees other women.                 |                                    |
| 2. Oskar sees the Nazis raid a Jewish ghetto. He feels sick.        |                                    |

## Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

- Hitler is the leader of the Nazi party. \_\_\_\_  
Hitler is the worst leader in the world. \_\_\_\_
- Oskar will do anything to get what he wants. \_\_\_\_  
Oskar bribes the Nazis to get what he wants. \_\_\_\_
- Oskar dies a sad old man. \_\_\_\_  
Oskar dies at the age of 66. \_\_\_\_

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.

Facts can be proven.

Opinions are personal beliefs.

## Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

| Question                                      | Chapter          | Answer |
|---|------------------|--------|
| How many Jewish names are on the list?        | Schindler's List | 1,200  |
| 1. When do the Nazis gain control of Germany? |                  |        |
| 2. How does Oskar save his Jewish workers?    |                  |        |
| 3. What does Oskar do when the war ends?      |                  |        |

## Activity **6** Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.  
Make a connection to your life.

### Idea

There are many ways to silence people.

The Nazis silence the Jews during the Holocaust.

The Nazis make laws that take power from the Jews.

They make laws that take rights from the Jews:

Jews cannot own a business.

Jews cannot own property.

Jews work for no pay.

Jewish children cannot go to school.

The Nazis separate the Jews  
from other people in society.

Signs say, “Jews are not welcomed here.”

Jews live in dirty, crowded ghettos.

Jews must carry identity cards.

The Nazis use physical violence.

Jews work in labour camps.

Jews are beaten. Jews are shot. Jews are attacked by dogs.

Reading is more than understanding  
the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas  
to their lives.



© USHMM.



© U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

In history, strong groups often silence other groups.  
In daily life, most people feel silenced at times.  
Every silenced voice is a loss in some way.

Read each paragraph.

Why is each person silenced?

1 I am with my friends. They are talking about a neighbour. They are saying racist things. I do not agree with what they say. I do not tell them what I think. I pretend to agree.

2 I am walking down the street. I see a man and a woman. The man is holding the woman by the arm. It looks as if he is hurting her. I want to do something. I cross the street. I say nothing. I pretend I see nothing.

3 I am at the doctor's. The doctor tells me what is wrong. I don't understand. But I don't ask questions.

4 My boss makes me feel uneasy. He says things like, "You should wear those pants more often." He is always near me for no reason. I know I have the right to say something. But I say nothing.



### Your Life

Think of a time when you felt silenced.

What do you think caused your silence?  
How did your silence make you feel?  
Were you able to find a voice? How?

Would you act in a different way now  
if you had the chance?

Today, there are many groups of people  
in society who are not heard.

Who are they?  
Why are they not heard?  
How can they get a voice?

Which groups in society usually have a voice?



# • Writing •

## Activity **1** Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about silencing.  
Use your ideas from page 42.

Your instructor will help you with spelling.

### Paragraph 1

I felt silenced once when I was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

I was silenced because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

My silence made me feel \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Paragraph 2

I needed to find a voice, so I \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

helped me a lot. After finding a voice, I felt

\_\_\_\_\_ .

Read each paragraph out loud.

Which paragraph do you like better?

Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

---

---

---

Good writers know that writing is a process.

Good writers think of ideas before they write.

Good writers check their writing.



© iStockphoto/Eduardo Jose Bernardino.

## Activity

# 2

## Organize Ideas



Good writers know that writing is a process.

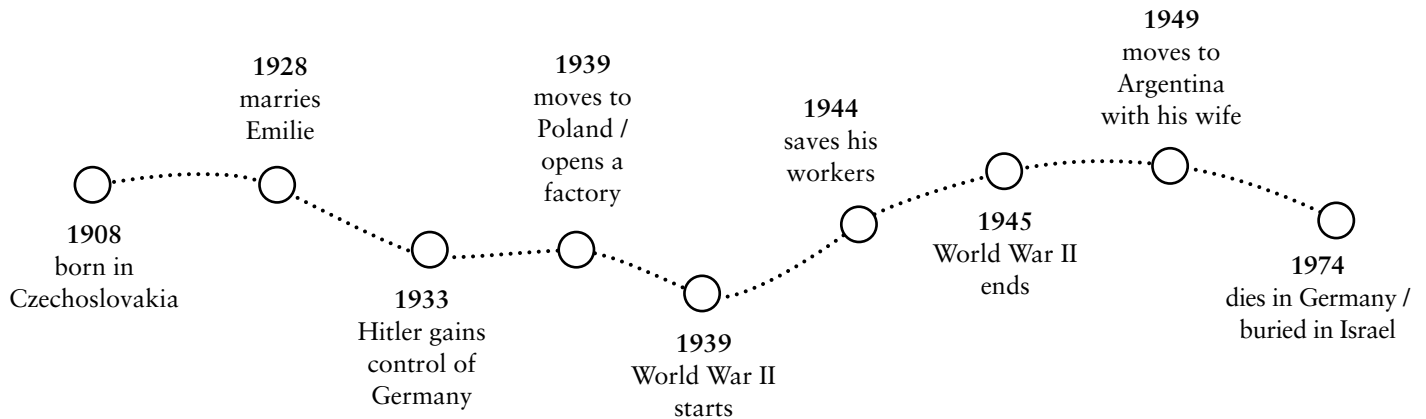
Good writers organize their ideas before they write.

One way to organize ideas is to use time lines.

Look at the time line.

1. What is the topic of the time line?
2. How many events are on the time line?

### Oskar Schindler's Time Line



Use Oskar's time line to complete the paragraphs.

#### Paragraph 1: Before the War

Oskar is born in Czechoslovakia in 1908. In 1928, he \_\_\_\_\_ . Five years later, \_\_\_\_\_ . In 1939, Oskar \_\_\_\_\_ and opens a factory.

#### Paragraph 2: During the War

\_\_\_\_\_ in the same year.  
In 1944, Oskar \_\_\_\_\_ .  
The next year, \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### Paragraph 3: After the War

\_\_\_\_\_ , Oskar moves to Argentina with his wife.  
In 1974, he \_\_\_\_\_ and is buried in Israel.

## Oskar Schindler



1. **Main Idea and Details:** (1) b (2) b
2. **Invisible Messages\*:** (1) Oskar does not love his wife. Oskar is not a good husband. He has a bad marriage. (2) Oskar cares about what happens to the Jewish people.
3. **Fact and Opinion:** (1) F/O (2) O/F (3) O/F
4. **Table of Contents:** (1) The Nazis' Rise to Power / 1933 (2) Schindler's Plan / brings Jewish workers to his factory in Czechoslovakia (his homeland) (3) After the War / moves to Argentina and tries to farm
5. **Organize Ideas:** (1) Oskar Schindler's life (2) 9 **Paragraph 1:** marries Emilie / Hitler gains control of Germany / moves to Poland **Paragraph 2:** World War II starts / saves his workers / World War II ends **Paragraph 3:** In 1949 / dies in Germany

\*Accept any answer that makes sense.