

Working, reading and learning together

Year 7 Expected Read 2020

'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit'

Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

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Dear Year 7,

Welcome to HDHS! We are all extremely excited that you are joining us and we can't wait to get to know you. There are lots of things that are important to us at HDHS but one of the most important things is reading. Everyone at HDHS is a reader. We love talking about books, we love choosing books, we love recommending books, we love swapping books and we even love smelling books (this is called Bibliosmia) but the thing we love the most is simply reading books.

We want to give you a present to say welcome to HDHS and we can't think of any present better than to give you a book.

The book that we are giving to each Year 7 student is **'When Hitler stole Pink Rabbit'**. This book was written by Judith Kerr who you may be familiar with as she also wrote 'When Tiger Came to Tea' and 'The Mog' series of books.

We have chosen this book for a reason. It is an amazing book and we want you to experience how phenomenal it is. Good readers pass good books on to other readers so this is what we are doing. It is also a book about a young person having to grow up and experience a very different world (exciting and frightening at the same time) which you are about to do at HDHS. It is a book that ignites every emotion that you have. At HDHS we read for pleasure and we read for purpose. This book is pleasurable but also purposeful in that it transports you to an important historic time and you get to experience something that is not everyday to you.

Please come and talk to me about this book. Books are even better when you can talk about them.

Enjoy!

Mrs Finch,

Reader first; Headteacher second.

Readers make leaders!

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Synopsis of When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Anna is too busy with schoolwork and tobogganing to listen to the talk of Hitler. But one day she and her brother are rushed out of Germany in alarming secrecy away from everything they know. Their father is wanted by the Nazis – dead or alive. This is the start of a huge adventure, sometimes frightening, very often funny, and always, always exciting.



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Who wrote the story?



Judith Kerr Author Biography

- Judith Kerr was born on 14 June 1923 in Berlin but escaped from Hitler's Germany with her parents and brother in 1933 when she was nine years old.
- Her father was a drama critic and a distinguished writer whose books were burned by the Nazis.
- The family passed through Switzerland and France before arriving finally in England in 1936.
- Judith went to eleven different schools, worked in the Red Cross during the war, and won a scholarship to the Central School of Arts and Crafts in 1945.
- Since then she has worked as an artist, a BBC television scriptwriter and, for the past thirty years, as author and illustrator of children's books.
- Her three autobiographical novels are based on her early wandering years (which against all the odds she greatly enjoyed), her adolescence in London during the war and finally on a brief return to Berlin as a young married woman.
- The stories have been internationally acclaimed and to the author's considerable satisfaction, have done particularly well in Germany where they are sometimes used as an easy introduction to a difficult period of Germany's history.



Unfortunately, Judith Kerr passed away on the 22nd May 2019. Judith Kerr was 95 years old when she died. HDHS students in Year 7 in 2019 were very lucky to have had the opportunity to interview Judith Kerr. They sent questions to Judith Kerr who kindly responded.

HDHS Year 7 students interview Judith Kerr

Gracie: What was the inspiration behind 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' ?

It is the story of my childhood leaving Germany and coming to Paris and then London. It is based on my own experiences as a child. It is about the world through the eyes of a child. There is a lot of innocence in the story.

Honie: How long is the process of writing a book and what is the experience like?

A new picture book takes me about a year with all the pictures.

Drew: What is Berlin like and where is your favourite place in the world?

Berlin is a very interesting and beautiful city. It is very different now to when I lived there as a child but it is special to me. It has a lot of history and there are a lot of stories and emotions everywhere in Berlin. My favourite place in the world is London. It is vibrant and full of life.

Jack: What has been the greatest achievement in your career?

Probably living to be as old as I am. I'm 95.

Natasha - Who is your favourite writer and why?

I love the novels of Georges Simenon.

Natasha - When did you start writing stories and why?

I started writing when I was in my 40s when my children were young and they went to school for the whole day. I started to draw and then the drawings became stories.

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Lucy- Are any of your stories based on your own life or people you know?

The Mog stories are based on our family – the various cats and the Thomas family is really our family.

Sam- What would you say to reluctant readers?

Don't worry too much. You will find the right book one day. You might be a reluctant reader and prefer to draw and that is fine. Your drawings could lead to writing and then reading.

Brandon- How would you describe your style of writing and what genre would you place your writing in?

I am much more of a drawer than a writer. I make picture books. For me, my pictures tell my stories. My stories are for children but a lot of adults tell me they like them too.

Morgan- How old were you when you wrote your first story and what was it about?

My first book was the Tiger Who Came to Tea. I was 45.

Dylan- How does it make you feel when people tell you they enjoy your stories?

Very pleased. It makes me proud.

Jesse- Would you recommend being a writer as a career and what are the advantages and disadvantages of being a writer?

I'm not really a writer and I am more of a drawer. I always start with the pictures. The writing comes after my drawings. The nice thing about being a writer or illustrator is that I can do what I love to do best. I can't think of any disadvantages. Perhaps when it's hard to get started.

Michael- If you could only read one book again and again, what would it be and why?

It would be something to look at - a big book of pictures of paintings by the Impressionist painters.

Chris- What advice would you give to somebody who wants to be a writer?

Just have a go and don't give up if it's something you really want to do. Have dreams and never let them go.

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Before you read the chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* is a very likeable girl, Anna Kerr, whose life goes through some dramatic changes as the story unfolds. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting protagonist?

1.
2.
3.

Every good story usually needs an interesting **antagonist** ("bad guy"). We already have been given a few hints that an antagonist in this novel might be none other than the notorious Adolf Hitler. Think about some other books you have read which have featured an antagonist that you have really disliked. What characteristics do you think makes for an effective antagonist?

1.
2.
3.



Who is Hitler?



Adolf Hitler (20 April 1889 in Austria – 30 April 1945 in Berlin) was the leader of Nazi Germany.

- Hitler also led the NSDAP (often called the Nazi Party), the democratically elected party which ruled Germany at this time. He became Chancellor of Germany in 1933. This appointment was allowed by the German constitution.
- Hitler became dictator (complete ruler) in 1934. He called himself the *Führer*(leader) of the German Empire. The Nazis created a dictatorship called the Third Reich. In 1933, they banned all other political parties. This gave Hitler absolute power.
- Hitler wrote a book and at first wanted to call the book *Four and a Half Years of Struggle against Lies, Stupidity and Cowardice*. In the end, he called the book *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*).
- *Mein Kampf* brought together some of Hitler's different ideas
- Hitler ordered the invasion of Poland in 1939, and this started World War II.
- Lebensraum: Meaning "living space," was a basic principle of Nazi foreign policy. Hitler believed that eastern Europe had to be conquered to create a vast German empire for more physical space, a greater population, and new territory to supply food and raw materials. Because of Hitler, at least 50 million people died. Lebensraum became an ideological principle of Nazism and provided justification for the German territorial expansion into Central and Eastern Europe.
- During World War II, Hitler was the Commander-in-Chief of the German forces and made all the important decisions. He shot himself in 1945, as the Soviet Army got to Berlin, because he did not want to be captured alive by the Soviet Union.
- Nazi forces did many war crimes during the war. They killed their enemies or put them in concentration camps and death camps. Nazis carried out orders to kill and persecute Jews and other ethnic, religious, and political minorities. In what is called the Holocaust, the Nazis killed six million Jews, Roma people, homosexuals, Slavs, and many other groups of people. Many Aryans were also killed for going against Nazi orders- for example, helping to hide Jews.

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Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel. Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first two chapters of *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*.



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Stuttgart – Fascinating Facts



- Did you know that Stuttgart, the city that Anna and her family pass through in Chapter Four is presently the sixth largest city in Germany?
- Did you know that Stuttgart is also known as the cradle of the automobile? What well known cars are made in Stuttgart

There are many other mesmerizing facts about this important city that I am sure you are dying to learn about. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet do a further investigation of Stuttgart. See if you can uncover at least three stupefying facts about this fascinating city with which to impress your friends. Try to glean your facts from a variety of topics. Happy hunting!

Become an interviewer:

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Interview at least two other students(or members of your family) for their views about this novel so far.

Question 1:
Response 1:
Response 2:
Question 2:
Response 1:
Response 2:
Question 3:
Response 1:
Response 2:
Question 4:
Response 1:
Response 2:
Question 5:
Response 1:
Response 2:

Switzerland

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It must be very difficult to move away from home but to move to a completely different country can be especially difficult. Fortunately, Anna and her family moved to one of the most beautiful and fascinating countries in the world – Switzerland.

Switzerland is a small, landlocked country in the middle of Europe. It is bordered on by five different countries (including Germany) and presently has a population of eight million (about the same population as New York City).

Using resources found in your school library or on the Internet do an investigation of this remarkable country and list four interesting facts about it in the space below.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

What's It All About, Anna?

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We have already read about some rather unusual topics in our novel: Berlin, Germany, Adolf Hitler, bigotry, Zurich, Switzerland, dachshunds, yodeling, Jewish people, censorship, etc. Your task is to choose an interesting topic from the novel, then create a mind map or chart(your choice) below to create a research organiser. Place the topic in the middle, then in the connecting boxes choose subtopics which would help you to do a thorough investigation of the topic. For example: if your main topic is dogs, subtopics might include breeds, diet, lifespan, grooming, etc.

The Famous Eiffel Tower

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The Eiffel Tower, located in Paris, France, is one of the most recognisable and famous landmarks in the world. It was erected in 1889 as the entrance arch to the 1889 World's Fair and named after its designer, Gustave Eiffel. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet do some research about this beautiful structure. Record four facts about the Eiffel Tower in the grid below and draw the Eiffel Tower.

Observation Chart

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When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit is a novel filled with sights and sounds – especially those from nature. Look back over the novel and get as many examples of the five senses, then list them in the chart below with a brief description about where each was found. You may wish to choose your examples from one particular scene, or include a number of different scenes.

Sight	Sound	Touch	Taste	Smell

Vocabulary: Write a sentence using the following words. Make sure that the meaning of the word is clear in your sentence.

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Vocabulary	Sentence
Tirade	
Supplement	
Mournful	
Unison	
Incomprehensible	
Embark	
Supervision	
Expedition	
Relapse	
Perilous	
Elaborate	

Collector's Cards

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A **trading card** (or **collectible card**) is a small card, usually made out of paper or card which usually contains an image of a certain person, place or thing (fictional or real) and a short description of the picture, along with other text (attacks, statistics, or trivia). There is a wide variation of different types of cards. Modern cards even go as far as to include swatches of game worn memorabilia, autographs, and even DNA hair samples of their subjects.

Trading cards are traditionally associated with sports: baseball cards are especially well-known. A Willie Mays 1952 Topps rookie card is worth \$3000.00 today. Cards dealing with other subjects like Pokemon are often considered a separate category from sports cards, known as non-sporting trading cards. These often feature cartoons, comic book characters, television series and film stills.

Wouldn't it be great if a series of collectors cards were issued celebrating some of the great landmarks of Europe (like the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe)? Design a card for a landmark of your choice. In addition to the above two examples, other possibilities might include The Pyramids of Giza, The Leaning Tower of Pisa or the Milan Cathedral (Italy), Berliner Fernsehturm (Germany) or another landmark approved by your teacher.

In Geography this year you will learn about landmarks around the world like Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, The Three Gorges Dam in China and The Kremlin in Russia. You could get started learning about these landmarks by making trading cards of these landmarks.

You could make some cards based on London landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, The Tower of London, The Shard, Wembley Stadium, The Globe Theatre and the Tate Modern Gallery.

The front should feature a coloured picture of the landmark, and the back should include at least four interesting facts about it i.e. appearance, history, size, architect, etc.

Conflict

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We have already read about a number of important conflicts in this novel. Conflict is an important element in a novel. There are generally four types of conflict: person against person; person against self; person against society and person against nature. Find two examples of conflict in 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' and describe the conflict.

Type of conflict:
Description:

Type of conflict:
Description:

The Five W's Chart

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Choose a major event from the novel and then complete the following chart with the important details.

What happened?
Who was there?
Why did it happen?
Where did this happen?
When did this happen?

Good to Know:

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Choose a topic which is featured in ‘When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit’ (i.e. Paris, Hitler, The Great Depression, sewing machines, Zurich, Eiffel Tower, The French Revolution, Bois de Boulogne, Champs Elysées, France, Switzerland). In each of the columns below add helpful details which would help someone who is researching your chosen topic.

TOPIC	
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What I Know	What I want to learn	Possible Sources

A Book Cover

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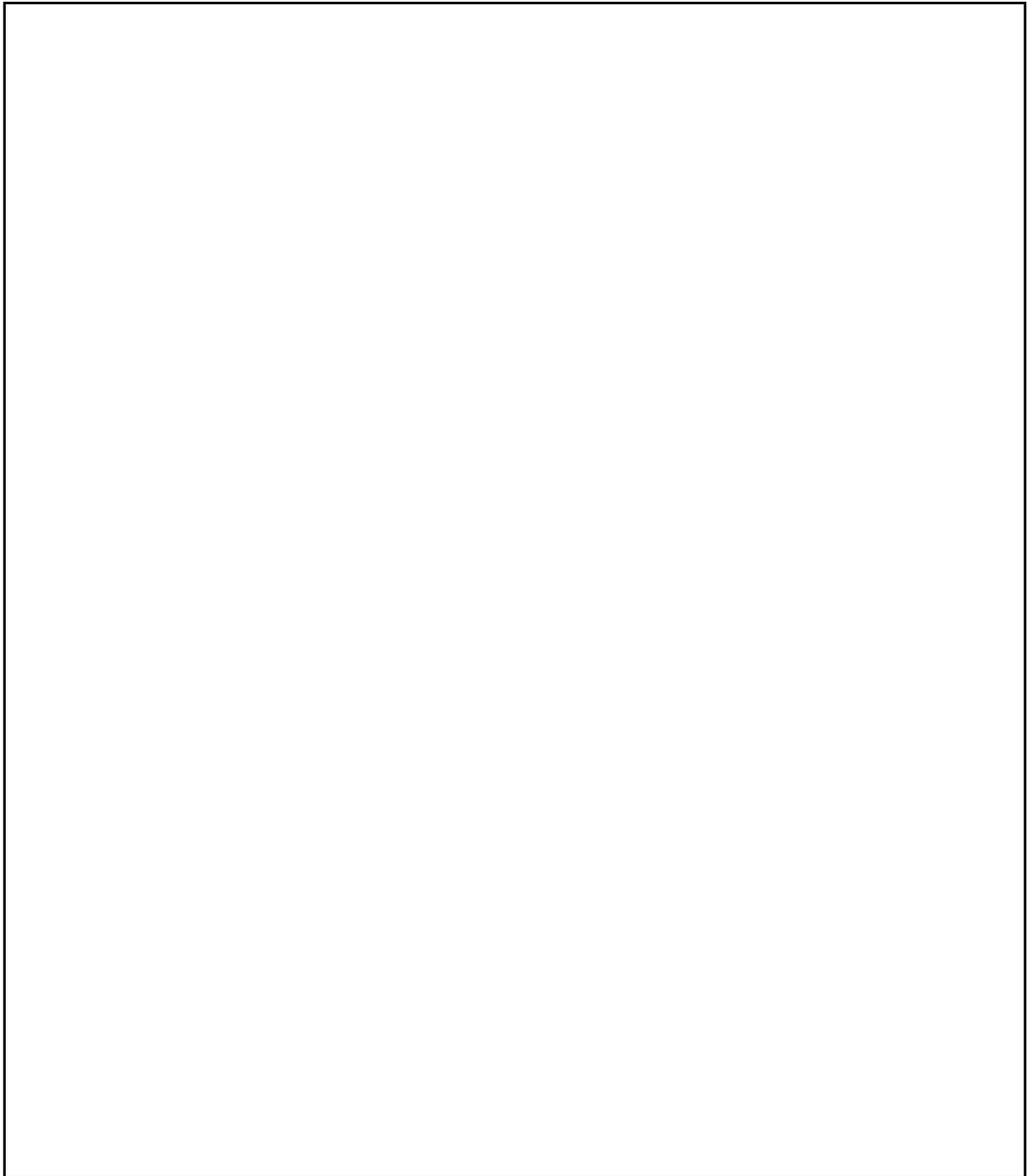
Create a book cover for 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit'. Be sure to include the title, author, and a picture that will make other students want to read the novel. Below are some examples of existing book covers.



My Book Cover

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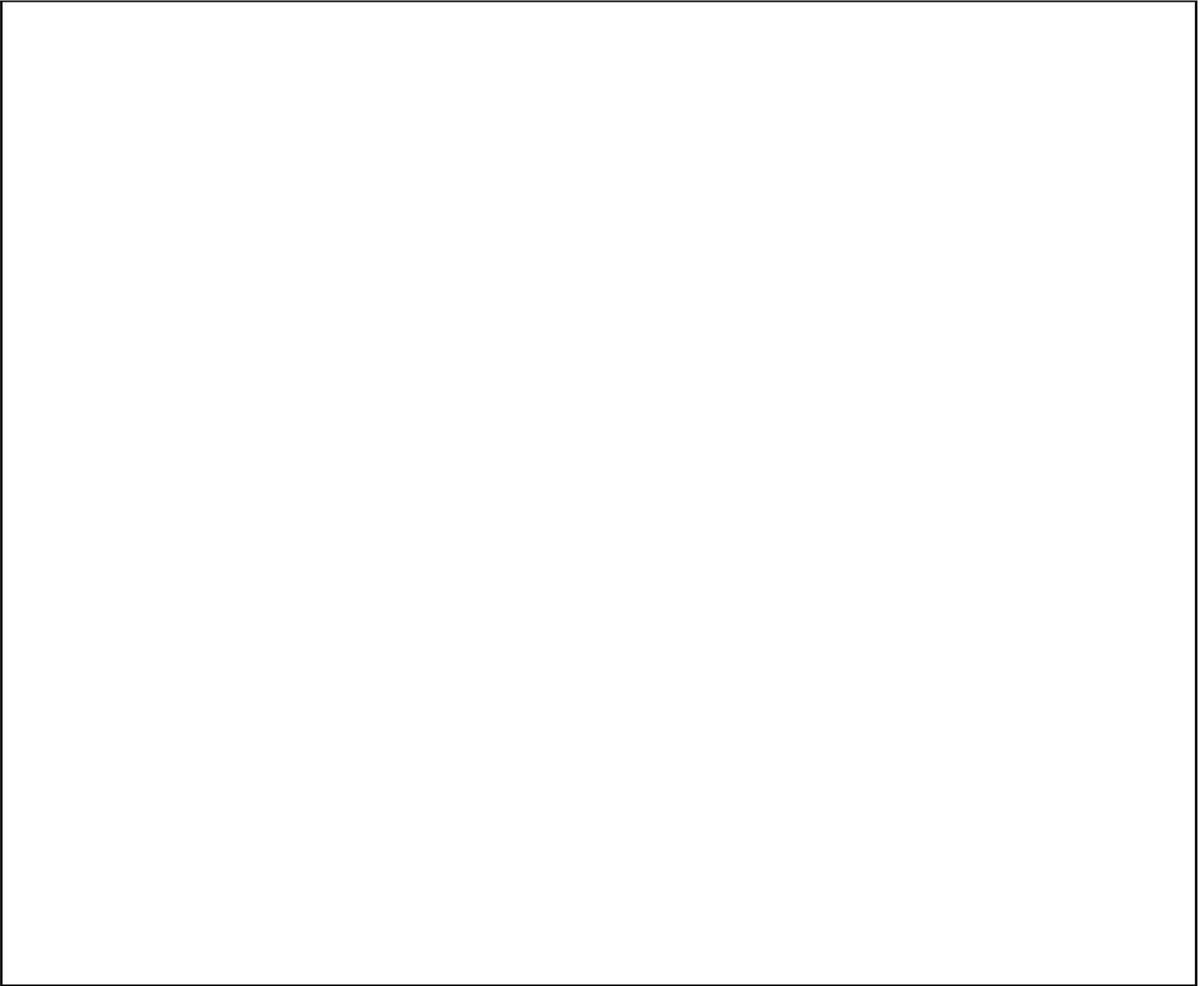


My Collage

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Make a collage from magazine pictures illustrating a scene from the novel or events and characters from the entire novel.



My Book Review

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Suppose Hollywood decided to make 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' into a full-length feature movie. Who would star in this exciting project? Now suppose you were asked to be the casting director for this movie. Who would you cast for the principal roles:

Anna	
Max	
Mama	
Papa	
Madame Fernand	
The red-headed boy	
Great Aunt Sarah	
Omama	
Vreneli	
Colette	

You may wish to choose Hollywood actors for this task, or for some fun, limit your choices to people in your school (teachers and students). Beside each selection write a brief explanation for your choice.

