

# A Child in Hiding

**By Amalia Harte, Grade 5, Fox Mill Elementary School Herndon, Va.**

*In 1940, at the beginning of World War II (1939-1945), the armed forces of Nazi Germany **conquered**<sup>1</sup> France. Benno Harte, Amalia's grandfather, was living in France at the time. He and his family were Jewish and had to escape from their home in Paris and hide in a farmhouse.*

**Q:** What was life like for you before the Nazis?

**A:** My parents were **well-to-do**<sup>2</sup> and provided everything I needed. I got an education when I was a child. When we moved to France, I didn't speak a single word of French. I went to a special school for **immigrants**.<sup>3</sup> Then the war started, in September 1939.

**Q:** What happened during the war?

**A:** When the French lost the war in 1940, we had to flee. We left the city and went south, away from the Germans.

**Q:** Was your father arrested?

**A:** My father was arrested when we moved from the city to the mountains on the train. He was arrested for having fake papers and because he was a Jew. He was arrested by the French, who were supposed to hand him over to the Nazis. Instead, he was set free.

**Q:** How did you survive?

**A:** We went to live in the mountains. Twice the police came to arrest me. But the apartment had two doors--one in the front, one in the back. The police came through the front door, and I escaped through the back.

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<sup>1</sup> **conquered:** gained control of land by fighting a war

<sup>2</sup> **well-to-do:** having plenty of money and possessions

<sup>3</sup> **immigrants:** people who have moved into a country

**Q:** Didn't you live in a farmhouse?

**A:** We stayed in a little farmhouse that belonged to a farmer. We bought food from the farmer—potatoes, chickens, and rabbits.

**Q:** How did you find the money to buy food?

**A:** It was a problem. My parents had a manufacturing plant in Paris. Before the war it was very successful. [When the Nazis came,] Jews couldn't own anything, so my mother put a lady in charge who had worked at the factory since the business started. My mother would travel to Paris every so often to get the money.

**Q:** Your father was arrested, but were any other family members or friends arrested or murdered?

**A:** Not my immediate friends. Many of my friends were not Jewish. They survived. But members of my family in Poland **perished**.<sup>4</sup> My father's mother and sister lived in [the Netherlands]. They disappeared.

**Q:** So your aunt was murdered?

**A:** Yes, she was murdered.

**Q:** How did you feel about life after the Holocaust?

**A:** I felt like I would never worry about anything again. I would be happy with anything that [might] happen. It would be so much better than what we had lived through.

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<sup>4</sup> **perished:** died

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where did Benno Harte's family flee in 1940?

- A to a small city in northern Germany
- B to the mountains in southern France
- C to an urban area outside of Paris
- D to a city in Poland

2. Read the following sentences. "In 1940, at the beginning of the World War II, the armed forces of Nazi Germany conquered France....Benno Harte...and his family were Jewish and had to escape from their home in Paris and hide in a farm house."

How do these sentences help the reader understand the structure of the text?

- A The sentences make a comparison.
- B The sentences describe two steps in a process.
- C The first sentence explains the reason for the second.
- D The second sentence gives the effect of the first.

3. Which of the following conclusions about Benno Harte is supported by the passage?

- A Benno was unable to continue going to school when he was in hiding.
- B Although Benno had parents, he survived by living on his own.
- C Benno was pretending to be Jewish so he could stay with his parents.
- D Benno's ability to learn French helped him survive the Holocaust.

4. Read this sentence from the passage: My parents had a manufacturing plant in Paris.

In this sentence, the word **manufacturing** means

- A to teach people how to speak a new language
- B to raise livestock including chickens and rabbits
- C to make a product from raw materials
- D to collect fake papers and other official documents

5. Which statement best describes the main idea of this passage?

- A World War II took place from 1939 to 1945.
- B Benno and his family survived the Holocaust by going into hiding.
- C Members of Benno's family in Poland perished during the war.
- D Benno's father got arrested for having fake papers and was set free.

6. What kinds of food did Benno's family buy from the farmer?

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7. During World War II, the police came to arrest Benno Harte twice while he was in hiding with his family. How did Benno deal with it and what does this tell us about him as a person?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

When Benno Harte's father was arrested, the French were supposed to turn him over to the Nazis. \_\_\_\_\_, the French set him free.

- A First
- B Although
- C Instead
- D So

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In 1940, Benno Harte and his family escaped from their home in Paris and hid in a farmhouse to survive the Holocaust.

Who? Benno Harte and his family

(did) What? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** conquered: gained control of land by fighting a war.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_