



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Catche Cage

Ruth Minsky Sender

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Cage

Ruth Minsky Sender

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

Getting the “Lay of the Land”

Directions: Prepare for reading by answering the following short-answer questions.

1. Who is the author?

2. What does the title suggest to you about the book?

3. When was the book first copyrighted?

4. How many pages are there in the book?

5. Thumb through the book. Read three pages—one from near the beginning, one from near the middle, and one from near the end. What predictions can you make about the book?

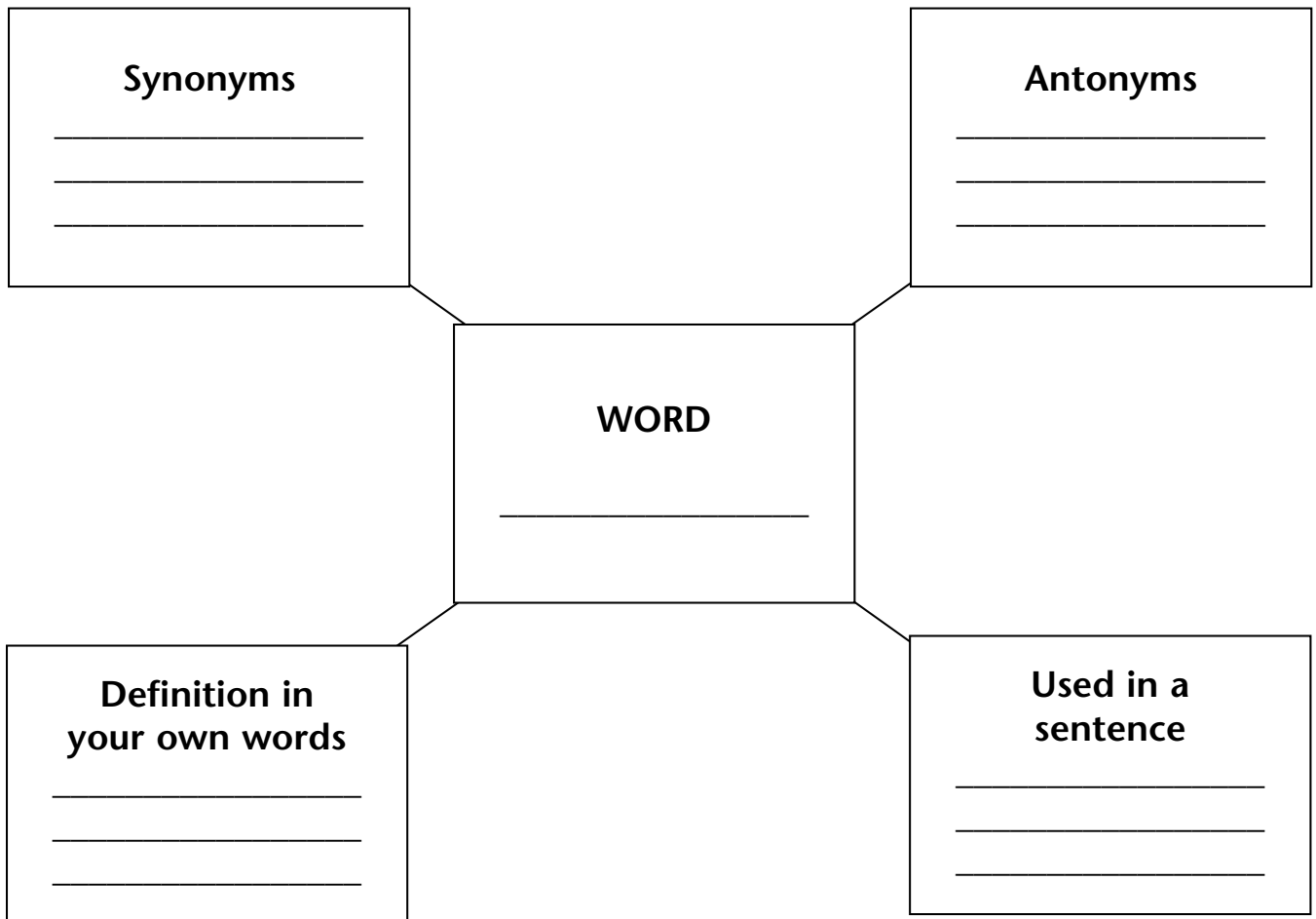
6. What does the cover suggest to you about the book?

Name _____

Word Map

barrack (151) parched (153)	stupor (152) famished (157)	transfixed (152) whim (169)	degraded (153) majestic (170)
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Directions: Complete the word map below for at least four of the vocabulary words listed above.



Name _____

3. What happens to Faige as she whips Chanel?
4. How does Riva get a pencil?
5. What holiday do the Jewish prisoners celebrate with song?
6. Who volunteers as a “doctor”?
7. Why does Riva need a doctor?
8. What complication occurs with Riva’s hand?
9. How does the doctor get help for Riva?
10. What indignity does Riva experience on the train?
11. Where does Riva have to walk on her way to the hospital?
12. What is ironic about Riva taking cover from the Allies’ planes?
13. How does the doctor save Riva?
14. What does Riva make Anna promise?

Chapters 41–48, pp. 223–264

1. How does Riva continue writing while her hand is healing?
2. What does Riva do for the holiday celebration?
3. Who gives Riva a surprise gift? What is the gift?
4. What is Riva’s job at the first-aid station?
5. What does Riva experience with Katia?
6. How does the commandant threaten the prisoners?
7. Where are the prisoners transported?
8. What work does Riva do at Grafenort?
9. How do the guards discourage the prisoners even with the Allies getting close?
10. Why do the Nazi guards disappear?
11. What does the Russian Jew tell the freed women about the other camps?
12. Where does Riva go? Why?
13. How does the woman at Riva’s former home react to her?
14. What has the woman done with Riva’s books and pictures?
15. Where does Riva go after searching the garbage for her books?
16. Why does Ruth’s daughter, Nancy, say she is lucky?

Name _____

Directions: Complete the paragraph below.

The Cage, written by (1) _____, begins in the country of (2) _____ in the late (3) _____s. (4) _____ has risen to power and has decided to rid the German state of the (5) _____ people. Riva is only (6) _____ years old, living in (7) _____ with her (8) _____ and (9) _____ brothers. Her other siblings have escaped to (10) _____, where their mother thought they would be safe. To the family's disappointment, their landlady Mrs. (11) _____ and her grandson (12) _____ have become part of the newly formed *Volksdeutsche*. In fact, the grandson appears dressed as a (13) _____. Members of the *Volksdeutsche* are allowed to go into the Jewish homes and (14) _____. Because of food and medicine deprivation in the ghetto, (15) _____ becomes ill with (16) _____. To hide him from the Nazis who are emptying the houses and sending people to concentration camps and labor camps, Mama hides him in the (17) _____ of their home. Sadly, their mother is eventually (18) _____ and never seen again. With her mother gone, Riva, who is now 16 years old, is in charge of her brothers. Because of a calcium deficiency, she becomes unable to (19) _____. Her friend carries her to a (20) _____ to get help, but he cannot make her better.