



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

THE HIDING PLACE

BY CORRIE TEN BOOM



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Written by Chris Curtis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Predictions**

All references come from the Bantam Books edition of *The Hiding Place*, copyright 1971.

Objective: Motivating interest in the book

Activity

Read the liner notes on the back of the book, *The Hiding Place*. Write down your thoughts then discuss in groups what you expect *The Hiding Place* has to offer.

1. Does it seem odd that you are told about several of the major events of the book before you start?
2. What does that leave to read about?
3. What questions does it provoke in your mind?
4. What expectations do you have of the book?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters One - Two**Personification**

Objective: Identifying descriptions and references to the ten Boom's house, the Beje.
Write using personification.

Activity

The ten Boom's home, the Beje, had its own name—which, in a way, personifies it (gives it a human characteristic). Find the references and descriptions of the house in chapters one and two, then write an autobiography of the house speaking in first person. Try to include as many details from the book as you can.

A sample first paragraph has been provided:

I was born hundreds of years ago, and I don't remember too much about it. I've been a host to the ten Boom family for as long as I can recall. Father ten Boom was born right here in one of my rooms in the 1800s. Betsie, Corrie, Nollie and Willem were all born right here, too.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Four**Point of View****Objective:** Understanding how point of view affects the story**Activity**

The Hiding Place, is written from Corrie ten Boom's point of view. Pick an event from chapter four and write it from another character's viewpoint. You may pick from the suggested events and characters below or choose a combination of your own with your teacher's approval.

Event:

- Mama has a cerebral hemorrhage
- Mama sings at Nollie's wedding
- Corrie and Betsie swap duties
- Corrie learns watch repair
- Radio arrives
- Otto is hired at the watch shop

Character's Point of view:

- Mama, Father, or Betsie
- Willem, Father, or Nollie
- Betsie
- Father
- Father
- Otto

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Five

Newspaper

Objective: Identifying important details from *The Hiding Place* and presenting them in the form of a newspaper article

Activity

Write a front-page article detailing the events of the occupation and/or the ten Boom's heroic actions. Write the story in the factual, unbiased style that is supposed to be used by newspaper reporters.

- There must be an eye-catching headline that sums up the content of the article.
- The first paragraph should concisely describe **who, what, when, where, and why**, so that a reader may know the basic facts surrounding the event after reading only the first paragraph.
- The subsequent paragraphs should follow in a logical order, offering further details and substance for readers who want more information.
- The last paragraph should have a clear conclusion.
- Include a drawing or photo to accompany the article.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Eight

Interrogation

Objective: Creating questions that reveal the facts
 Answering questions truthfully without revealing vital information

Activity

In Chapter Eight, Jop is captured and taken to prison. He is undoubtedly interrogated extensively to reveal anything he knows about the underground operation at the Beje.

Divide the class into small groups. Each group will be called either “**The Interrogators**” or “**The Arrested.**”

The Interrogators

As Interrogators, your objective is to get Jop to reveal the details of the underground operation at the Beje. The Interrogators will ask exactly ten questions, which Jop **MUST** answer truthfully. He may try to avoid a full answer to a question, if he can, so make sure your questions really state the facts. For example, if you asked Jop, “Who runs the organization at the Beje,” he could answer, truthfully, “Someone I know.” The question must be more specific like, “What is the name of the person who runs the underground organization at the Beje.” All questions must deal with information from the book that the Interrogators would want to know and should be easily answered.

The Arrested

As The Arrested, your objective is to answer ten questions truthfully, but deceptively. In your group, practice finding “wiggle” room in the questions posed to you. For example, if the question is “Who runs the organization at the Beje?” You could answer, truthfully, “Someone I know.” The Interrogators do not know anything more than before, and they’ve used up a question.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Ten

Writing an Obituary

Objective: Identifying important details of a character's life

Activity

An obituary summarizes the important details of a person's life after their death. It usually contains information about the funeral services, relatives, residence, occupation, etc. To get a better idea of how an obituary is formatted, read some from a local newspaper.

At the end of Chapter ten, Corrie finds out some of the details of her father's death. Write an obituary for Father. You may have to make up some details to fill in the things you don't know.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Twelve

Monologue

Objective: Inferring the inner monologue of a character

Activity

In Chapter Twelve, Corrie and Betsie are transferred to Vught, a concentration camp for political prisoners. During their third morning there, “the tall, silent head matron from Scheveningen” (a.k.a. “The General”) arrives. (Pg. 72) Corrie recalls an event that seems to characterize “The General.”

“During one long roll call a pregnant woman at our table slumped to the floor, striking her head against the edge of the bench. The General did not so much as pause in her expressionless reading of names.” (Pgs. 172-173)

Write a journal entry about the event above. Write your journal entry from the viewpoint of one of the following characters.

- The General
- A German Soldier
- A German Citizen
- A Dutch Citizen
- Another Prisoner
- Lieutenant Rahms
- Betsie

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters Eleven - Fifteen**Symbolism**

Objective: Exploring the use of plants as symbols in the story

Activity

The effects of the stock market crash of 1929 and the subsequent Great Depression were felt worldwide. The Depression lasted until the late 1930s, however, just one year after the stock market crash, Holland held their first Tulip Festival. It seems that for citizens of Holland, the Tulip is a symbol of hope.

In Chapter Eleven, Corrie is led to the row of huts that are used for interrogations. She notes that the inhabitant of the fourth hut had planted a row of tulips along the side. Corrie prays that she is sent to the fourth hut because she sees this as a sign of hope. Her hopes are well founded, as the inhabitant, Lieutenant Rahms, is able to help her.

Identify other direct references to flowers or plants in the remaining chapters and explain how they present a consistent symbol throughout the story.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Theme

Objective: Working with themes from the book
Relating quotations to the book

Activity

Look at the quotes below and write a paragraph or two that explains they might apply to the themes, plot, or characters in *The Hiding Place*. We have done one for you as an example.

Evil when we are in its power is not felt as evil but as a necessity, or even a duty. - Simone Weil

This quote would apply to the German soldiers. Many knew that the things they were doing were wrong. Lieutenant Rahms was a good man caught in a bad place. Even though he did not hurt Corrie directly, he was a part of the Nazi effort, and he undoubtedly was responsible for the deaths of others. He worried about his family and probably justified his actions in a number of ways, which makes him seem guiltless—until he is compared with the ten Booms, who sacrificed everything. Lieutenant Rahms was under the power of evil.

- An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind. —Mahatma Gandhi
- Certainly virtue is like precious odors, most fragrant when they are incensed, or crushed: for prosperity doth best discover vice, but adversity doth best discover virtue. —Sir Francis Bacon
- To see a man fearless in dangers. Untainted with lusts, happy in adversity, composed in a tumult, and laughing at all those things which are generally either coveted or feared, all men must acknowledge that this can be from nothing else but a beam of divinity that influences a mortal body. —Seneca
- Adversity is the diamond dust Heaven polishes its jewels with. —Leighton
- The evil of the world is made possible by nothing but the sanction you give it. —Ayn Rand
- All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. —Edmund Burke
- The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness. —Joseph Conrad
- “He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.
- “If the day should ever come when the Nazis must go, if some day we are compelled to leave the scene of history, we will slam the door so hard that the universe will shake and mankind will stand back in stupefaction.” —Joseph Goebbels
- “All war must be just the killing of strangers against whom you feel no personal animosity; strangers whom, in other circumstances, you would help if you found them in trouble, and who would help you if you needed it.” —Mark Twain