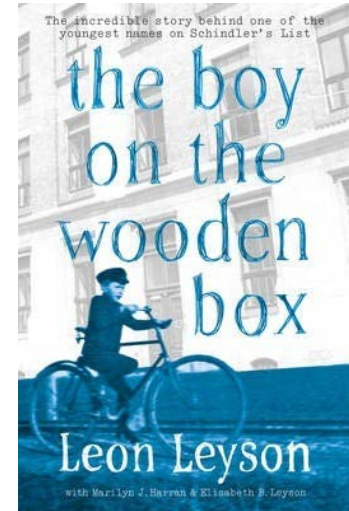
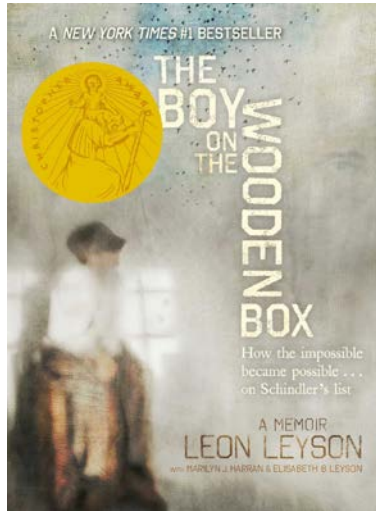


The Boy on the Wooden Box Prologue and Chapter 1



Oskar Schindler

“[he] thought my life had value” (3).

Hero: Schindler saved hundreds of Jews including Leon Leyson. They met again in America some years later. Here Schindler is pictured speaking in 1963 about those he saved in Germany.



One of “Schindler’s Jews”--a person saved by Oskar Schindler-- at a ceremony in Poland in 2008.



Survivor: [Leon Leyson](#) was the youngest Jewish survivor of the Holocaust spared by being on Schindler's List. Oskar Schindler kept an eye on the Leyson family among the hundreds of other Jews he saved.



Prologue and Chapter 1 Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to understand that people like Oskar Schindler existed during WWII?
2. Describe the setting of Leon's playground when he was young.
3. What does this quote say about Leon as a child? "After all, I didn't know how to swim," (6).
4. Who is Leib Lejzon? Where was Leon born?

5. Leon's family was poor. How did Leon's mother show how proud she was of his hard work?
6. Why did Leon's father move to Krakow without his family?
7. Which sibling did Leon feel closest? Why did he believe that Pesza was his father's favorite child?
8. Why did Christians treat the Jews differently the week before Easter?

9. Explain how the Sabbath observed by the Jews. What was the heder?
10. What was the dominant religion in Poland during this time period?
11. Why were the Jews not allowed to have a Polish first name?
12. How does the law prohibiting Jews from owning land in Poland illustrate a form of discrimination?

Read the following quote:

“It was a patriarchal society, in which age was respected, even revered, especially when, as in my maternal grandfather’s case, age meant a lifetime of hard work, of caring for his family, and of devotion to his faith,” (25).

13. Do you think our society continues to hold this belief?
Do you believe the patriarchal society should exist today?

14. How did Leon's grandfather help the family while Leon's father was away?

15. Describe Leon's relationship with his grandfather.

16. Describe what happened to the men of Poland during the Great War of 1914-1918.

Read the following quote:

“In retrospect, my parents and many others made a terrible mistake in thinking the Germans who came to Narewka in the Second World War would be like the Germans who had come in the First World War” (28).

17. What can you infer from this quote?