

***Address Unknown* by Katherine Kressmann Taylor**

Reading Guide (created by Casey Piola, 2017)

As you read each chapter, answer the Reading Check questions. When you finish reading each chapter, answer the Deeper Thinking questions.

Letter 1: Max to Martin, Nov. 12, 1932

Reading Check

1. How does Max describe the Germany to which Martin and the Schulses have gone?
2. Why have the Schulses returned to Germany?
3. What is happening with their business?
4. What does Max tell Martin about Griselle?

Deeper Thinking

5. What was the relationship between Max and the Schulses like when the family was still living in the US? How can you tell?
6. What was Griselle and Martin's relationship?
7. What seems to be Max's attitude about WWI?
8. What is the overall tone of the letter?

Letter 2: Martin to Max, Dec. 10, 1932

Reading Check

9. How is Martin's family doing economically? How is Germany doing economically?
10. What are Martin's thoughts about the current German government?
11. What more do you now know about Martin and Griselle's relationship?
12. What does Martin tell Max to do regarding Griselle?

Deeper Thinking

13. Do you think the Schulses are glad to be back in Germany? Why or why not?
14. What word would you use to describe Martin's attitude about Griselle?
15. What does it reveal that Martin's child refers to Max as "Uncle Max?"
16. What is the overall tone of the letter?

Letter 3: Max to Martin, Jan. 21, 1933

Reading Check

17. What did Max do regarding Griselle and Martin both being in Europe now?
18. How is the business doing, even though the economy is hurting?
19. About whom does Max ask Martin?

Deeper Thinking

20. What is Max's view of their friendship?
21. What word would you use to describe Max's mention of Hitler? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

Letter 4: Martin to Max, March 25, 1933*Reading Check*

22. How does Martin feel about Hitler?
23. What does he believe is happening within Germany?
24. How does he describe the SA?
25. What has Martin joined? Why?
26. What questions is he still asking himself?
27. What does he report that his son Heinrich has done?

Deeper Thinking

28. To what does Martin attribute Hitler's rise in power? Is this historically accurate?
29. Would you describe Martin as an ardent Nazi? Why or why not?
30. What is the tone of the end of the letter? Does it surprise you?

Letter 5: Max to Martin, May 18, 1933*Reading Check*

31. What has Max read about in the papers?
32. How does he think Martin feels about it?
33. Why does Max think Griselle should wait to go to Berlin?

Deeper Thinking

34. What is the tone of this letter? How is it different from past letters?
35. How do you predict Martin feels about the violence against Jews that Max describes?

Letter 6: Martin to Max, July 9, 1933*Reading Check*

36. Why is Martin writing on bank stationery instead of personal stationery?
37. What request does he make of Max?
38. How does he feel about the violence against Jews happening in Germany?
39. How does he explain these feelings?
40. How have Martin's children become involved with the Nazis?

Deeper Thinking

41. How can you tell that Martin has now fully embraced the Nazi ideology?
42. Does his lack of concern over violence against Jews surprise you? Why or why not?
43. How do you predict Max will react to this letter?

Letter 7: Max to Martin, Aug. 1, 1933*Reading Check*

44. To what does Max attribute Martin's comments in his last letter?
45. How does he describe the Martin he once knew?
46. What does he ask Martin to write back to him so that he will know his true thoughts?

Deeper Thinking

47. Why do you think Max refuses to believe that Martin could truly be a Nazi?

Letter 8: Martin to Max, Aug. 18, 1933

Reading Check

48. What answer does Martin give Max?
49. What does Martin think about liberals?
50. How does he describe Hitler and the Nazi movement?
51. What does Martin think about their friendship now?

Deeper Thinking

52. Most of the letters have been at least one month apart—why do you think Martin wrote back so quickly this time?
53. How has Martin's ideology changed since the beginning of the letters?
54. Where in this letter do you see some of the basic ideas of Fascism?

Letter 9: Max to Martin, Sept. 5, 1933

Reading Check

55. What does Max ask Martin to do?
56. Why has Max removed Martin's name from their company?
57. What does Max say to Martin's fervor for the Nazi ideology?

Deeper Thinking

58. Why is Max so surprised at Martin's new attitude?
59. What emotions do you think Max is expressing through this letter? Are they justified?

Letter 10: Max to Martin, Nov. 5, 1933

Reading Check

60. What was the last thing that Max heard from Griselle?
61. Why is he so worried now?

Deeper Thinking

62. What does Max think mark will do about his concerns and pleas for help?
63. What do you predict Martin will do about Max's concerns and pleas for help?

Letter 11: Max to Martin, Nov. 23, 1933

Reading Check

64. How long has it been since Max heard from his sister?
65. What does he hear has happened to her?
66. Where is she headed?
67. What does Max ask Martin to do?

Deeper Thinking

68. What do you think will happen if Griselle reaches the Schulses' home?

Letter 12: Martin to Max, Dec. 8, 1933

Reading Check

69. What is different about the beginning of this letter than Martin's last letters?
70. What has happened to Griselle?
71. What does Martin do when Griselle comes to his door?
72. What is Martin's concern at the end of the letter?

Deeper Thinking

73. Was Martin truly "helpless to aid her," as he says?

Letter 13: Cablegram, Max to Martin, Jan. 2, 1934

74. What does this telegram say?
75. Why do you think Max sent this telegram?

Letters 14-16: Max to Martin, January 1934

Reading Check

76. What sort of details is Max including in these letters?
77. Do they make any sense?

Deeper Thinking

78. Why might Max be sending these letters? What is he hoping to accomplish?

Letter 17: Martin to Max, Feb. 12, 1934

Reading Check

79. What is happening to Martin and his family because of Max's letters?
80. What does Martin say will happen next?
81. What does Martin ask of Max?

Deeper Thinking

82. What is the tone of this letter?
83. How do you predict Max will react?

Letter 18-10: Max to Martin, Feb and March 1934

Reading Check

84. How does Max respond to Martin's last letter?

Deeper Thinking

85. On the last page, this letter is shown as coming back "Adressant Unbekannt," or Address Unknown. From this news, what has happened to Martin?

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Discussion Questions

1. *Address Unknown* was originally published in a magazine, but it was so well received that it was republished into a book. Why do you think it was such a success when it was first written?
2. Martin describes two very different pictures of Germany in his first letter (December 10, 1932) and his third letter (July 9, 1933). How has Germany changed during this time? What key event that took place between these dates might account for this change?
3. Martin's view of Hitler changes through the course of the letters. How does it change? Was it quick or gradual? Why do you think Martin came to embrace Hitler's ideology?
4. How does Martin try to justify the atrocities of the Nazis? Why do you think he spends so much time writing about this? Do you think he truly believes his own words? Why or why not?
5. With which character (if any) do you sympathize? Why?
6. Is Max justified in his actions? Why or why not?
7. What words would you use to describe this story? Explain your choices.
8. *Address Unknown* was first published in 1938, before WWII and before the Nazis began the "Final Solution." The author clearly references totalitarianism and atrocities in Germany; why do you think her warning was unheeded in the United States?
9. What aspects of Fascism do you see in *Address Unknown*?
10. What lessons can be taken from *Address Unknown*?