

***Friedrich* Reading Guide, Part 1**

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

Setting the Scene (1925)

Reading Check

1. The book opens with a description of what inanimate object and which man?
2. Why are many people in Germany struggling financially? How are these struggles impacting the narrator's family?
3. How does the narrator's family know Friedrich's family?
4. Where does Herr Schneider work?
5. What events caused the two families to get to know each other?

Deeper Thinking

6. What is your first impression of Herr Resch?
7. What are some difficulties associated with a bad economy?
8. What is your relationship with your neighbors like? What would you like for it to be like?
9. What is your first impression of the Schneiders?

Potato Pancakes (1929)

Reading Check

10. How old are Friedrich and the narrator now?
11. Why didn't the narrator allow Friedrich into his room at first?
12. How does Friedrich finally win over the narrator?
13. What do the boys do together?

Deeper Thinking

14. The Black Forest was a battle site during WWI. What does this knowledge reveal about Friedrich's father?
15. What is the narrator's mother's tone when she sees that Friedrich is a Jew? What does this tell you about her?
16. Describe the boys' afternoon together in three words.
17. Has anything in the story so far surprised you?

Snow (1929)

Reading Check

18. Why is the narrator anxious to get into the snow? What is keeping him from it?
19. What do Friedrich and his mother do in the snow?
20. How does Herr Resch treat Friedrich?

Deeper Thinking

21. How do you think the narrator felt while watching Friedrich and his mother play in the snow without him?
22. Why do you think the narrator's mother wanted him to come away so quickly?

Grandfather (1930)

Reading Check

23. How old are Friedrich and the narrator now?
24. What would the narrator's family have to do to prepare for a visit from his grandfather?
25. What does Grandfather do when he arrives at the narrator's home?
26. How does Grandfather feel about Jews? Off what does he base his opinion?
27. How does the narrator's father react to his grandfather's comments about Jews?

Deeper Thinking

28. What details from this chapter tell you about the narrator's family's financial situation?
29. What does the narrator's father's reaction to Grandfather's comments about Jews tell you about the narrator's father?
30. Do you think the narrator's mother did the right thing by lying about who was at the door? Why or why not?

Friday Evening (1930)

Reading Check

31. What object does the narrator notice in Friedrich's home?
32. What special preparations does Frau Schneider make?
33. What does the narrator do while the Schneiders participate in the Sabbath traditions?

Deeper Thinking

34. How would you describe the narrator's attitude toward the Schneiders' Jewish traditions?
35. How would you feel if you were at someone's house and they began a religious ritual?

School Begins (1931)

Reading Check

36. How old are Friedrich and the narrator now?
37. How are Friedrich and the narrator's gifts different?
38. Why was the narrator sorry that he had asked to go to the amusement park?
39. What did the families do at the amusement park?
40. What part of the day made everyone laugh so hard?
41. Why was the narrator's gift empty?

Deeper Thinking

42. How do you think the narrator's parents felt at the amusement park? Why?
43. So far, do you think the Schneiders are good people? Why or why not?
44. Do you think the narrator's family are good people? Why or why not?
45. So far, do you think the community is discriminatory toward the Schneiders?

***Friedrich* Reading Guide, Part 2**

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

The Way to School (1933)

Reading Check

1. How old are Friedrich and the narrator now?
2. What happened to the sign on Friedrich's doctor's office?
3. What do the boys see outside the stationery store?
4. What does the old woman do when she gets to the store?
5. How do the people outside the store react?
6. What does Friedrich say to the man blocking the store entrance?

Deeper Thinking

7. Why do you think the doctor wanted to boys to go home?
8. Did the old woman's behavior surprise you?
9. Why wasn't Friedrich afraid of the man blocking the store entrance?
10. What might have happened if Friedrich's father had not gotten there when he did?

The Jungvolk (1933)

Reading Check

11. Where are the boys going?
12. How does Friedrich feel about going there?
13. Describe the clubhouse.
14. What did the special speaker talk about?
15. What happens to Friedrich at the meeting?

Deeper Thinking

16. Why do you think Friedrich was so excited to go to the Jungvolk meeting even though he's Jewish?
17. Why do you think the boys were so enthralled with the special speaker?
18. Why do you think the narrator didn't leave with Friedrich?

The Ball (1933)

Reading Check

19. What did the narrator do with the ball?
20. How did the shopkeeper react?
21. What did the narrator do?
22. What happened when Friedrich's father got involved?

Deeper Thinking

23. Do you think the woman really cared if Friedrich had been the one to break the glass? Explain.
24. Why do you think the people in the town have become more vocal in their opposition to Jews?

Conversation on the Stairs (1933)

Reading Check

25. How was Herr Resch acting on the stairs when he first began talking to Friedrich's father?
26. What does he ask of the narrator's father?
27. What does Herr Resch tell Friedrich's father?
28. Why is Herr Resch kicking the Schneiders out of the building?

Deeper Thinking

29. What do you think about the way that the narrator's father reacted to Herr Resch? Did he do enough to help?
30. How has Herr Resch's attitude and approach toward Friedrich and his family changed?
31. What might account for this change?

Herr Schneider (1933)

Reading Check

32. How is Herr Schneider acting?
33. How does the narrator's mother react to the news of Herr Schneider crying?
34. What does Frau Schneider do when she comes into the narrator's house?
35. What news had the Schneider gotten that had them so upset?
36. Why had this happened?

Deeper Thinking

37. What does it say about the narrator's mother that she was willing to offer Frau Schneider the real coffee and the brandy?
38. Would you describe Frau Schneider in this chapter as sad, angry, or scared? Why?

The Hearing (1933)

Reading Check

39. Why are the Schneiders in court?
40. What is Herr Resch's demeanor?
41. What is the Schneiders demeanor?
42. What argument does Herr Resch's lawyer make? What argument does Herr Resch make?
43. What ends up happening in the case?

Deeper Thinking

44. Even though the Schneiders have lived in Herr Resch's house for nearly ten years, and he had always known they were Jews, he makes the argument in court that "Times have changed." What has changed?
45. Were you surprised that the judge sided with the Schneiders? Why or why not?

In the Department Store (1933)

Reading Check

46. What is Herr Schneider's new job?
47. Why is the narrator excited about the Jungvolk?
48. What did the narrator's father do?

Deeper Thinking

49. Why do you think Friedrich greeted the man outside the department store with "Heil Hitler"?
50. Why do you think the narrator's father joined the Nazi Party?

***Friedrich* Reading Guide, Part 3**

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

The Teacher (1934)

Reading Check

1. How old are the boys now?
2. What does the teacher tell the class about Jews?
3. What change is happening for Friedrich?

Deeper Thinking

4. What do you think the teacher meant when he said, "Friedrich may need good friends"?
5. What is your impression of the teacher? Is he a good person? Why or why not?

The Cleaning Lady (1935)

Reading Check

6. How old are the boys now?
7. How can the narrator's family afford a cleaning lady?
8. What happened during the conversation between Frau Schneider and Frau Penk?
9. What new laws have the Nazis passed?
10. What did Frau Penk see in the town?

Deeper Thinking

11. What do you think drove Frau Penk to stop cleaning the Schneider's house? Devotion to the Party? Shame? Fear? Explain.

Reasons (1936)

Reading Check

12. How does the narrator's father explain his decision to join the Nazi Party?
13. What does he tell Herr Schneider that he should do?
14. What reasons does Herr Schneider give for not leaving Germany?
15. What does Herr Schneider ask that narrator's father right before he leaves?

Deeper Thinking

16. Why do you think the narrator's father kept explaining his decision to join the Nazi Party, even when Herr Schneider told him he did not need to explain himself?
17. What do you think about the narrator's father's decision to join the Nazi Party?
18. What do you think about Herr Schneider's reasons for staying in Germany?

In the Swimming Pool (1938)

Reading Check

19. How old are the boys now?
20. What happened on the way to the swimming pool?
21. How did the pool attendants treat Friedrich?
22. What happened when Friedrich tried to help the boy whose bike was stolen?

Deeper Thinking

23. How would you have felt if you were Friedrich in this situation?

The Festival (1938)

Reading Check

24. What did the narrator's father tell him about being seen with Friedrich?
25. Describe the ceremony taking place inside the synagogue.
26. What does the rabbi tell the congregation in his sermon?
27. Describe the party after the ceremony.
28. Who comes to the party at the end?

Deeper Thinking

29. What are your thoughts on the narrator attending Friedrich's Bar Mitzvah?
30. What do you think is the importance of Friedrich's former teacher coming to the party?

The Encounter (1938)

Reading Check

31. What did the boys normally have to do in PE?
32. Describe the song that the PE teacher makes the boys sing.
33. What does the PE teacher tell the boys to do when they pass Friedrich's class?

Deeper Thinking

34. Why is the PE teacher making the boys march and sing songs?
35. What do you think about the narrator joining in on the song?

The Pogrom (1938)

Reading Check

36. What had happened to Dr. Askenase's and Mr. Rosenthal's buildings?
37. How were the adults reacting?
38. What does the narrator do at the home for Jewish apprentices?
39. What happens at the Schneiders' house?

Deeper Thinking

40. Why do you think the narrator goes home after seeing himself in the mirror?
41. The narrator describes getting swept up in the drama and excitement of the pogrom. Do you think that is a valid excuse for his participation? Why or why not?

The Death (1938)

Reading Check

42. What do the Schneiders need from the narrator's family?
43. What does the narrator tell his mother when she suggests calling the police?
44. What has happened to Frau Schneider?

Deeper Thinking

45. When this story began, did you think something like this could have happened? Why or why not?

***Friedrich* Reading Guide, Part 4**

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

Lamps (1939)

Reading Check

1. How old are the boys now?
2. Why are the Schneiders now mending lamps?
3. What has Herr Resch told the Schneiders?

Deeper Thinking

4. How can you tell that the relationship between the narrator and the Schneiders has changed?
5. How would you describe the Schneiders in this scene? Frightened? Determined? Explain.

The Movie (1940)

Reading Check

6. How old are the boys now?
7. What movie are they seeing?
8. Why do the boys have to meet in places that they aren't likely to be seen?
9. Why was Friedrich nervous?
10. What happens when the usherettes check IDs?
11. What does the usherette tell Friedrich right before she kicks him out?

Deeper Thinking

12. Why do you think Friedrich wanted to see the movie?
13. What would you have done if you were Friedrich in this situation?
14. What would you have done if you were the narrator?

Benches (1940)

Reading Check

15. How did Friedrich and Helga meet?
16. How do you know that Helga is not Jewish?
17. Where do they go on their date?
18. What happened in the park with the benches?
19. Why didn't Friedrich meet Helga for their next date?

Deeper Thinking

20. Do you think Friedrich did the right thing by standing Helga up? Why or why not?

The Rabbi (1941)

Reading Check

21. How old are the boys now?
22. Why are Friedrich and his father fighting?
23. What does the rabbi say to the narrator about the threat of the Nazis?
24. What questions does the narrator ask himself about helping to hide the rabbi?

Deeper Thinking

25. If you were the narrator, what would you do in this situation?

Stars (1941)

Reading Check

26. What did the narrator decide to do about helping to hide the rabbi?
27. What is the rabbi doing?
28. Describe the story that the rabbi tells the narrator.

Deeper Thinking

29. What message do you think the rabbi is trying to send the narrator through the story?

A Visit (1941)

Reading Check

30. Who comes to the Schneiders' house in the middle of the night?
31. Why does the narrator's father call Herr Resch a pig?
32. What does the narrator's family do as the Schneiders are being taken away?

Deeper Thinking

33. Does this scene change the way you feel about the narrator? Why or why not?

Vultures (1941)

Reading Check

34. What is the narrator's family's plan for when Friedrich comes back to the apartment?
35. What is Herr Resch doing in the Schneiders' apartment?

Deeper Thinking

36. Why does Friedrich call Herr Resch a vulture?
37. How would you describe Friedrich in this scene?

The Picture (1942)

Reading Check

38. How old are the boys now?
39. Why does the narrator's family have their belongings ready to go?
40. Where has Friedrich been? What has he had to do?
41. Why has Friedrich come to the narrator's house?
42. What do the narrator's parents do for Friedrich?
43. Where does the narrator's family go?
44. What is Friedrich going to do during the air raid?

Deeper Thinking

45. What do you think is going to happen next?

In the Shelter (1942)

Reading Check

46. Describe the people and situation in the air raid shelter?
47. What does the sergeant tell Herr Resch?
48. How does Herr Resch respond to Friedrich coming to the shelter? How does the sergeant respond? How do the other people respond?
49. What does Friedrich do?

Deeper Thinking

50. Why do you think the people stopped demanding that Friedrich be let in?

The End (1942)

Reading Check

51. What has happened to the town?
52. What does Herr Resch say is a shame?
53. What has happened to Friedrich? What do you think Herr Resch means by his last statement?

Deeper Thinking

54. How do you feel at the end of this book?
55. Who or what would you say killed Friedrich—the bombs, Herr Resch, or the narrator and others in the shelter? Why?