Finding the Main Ideas

Books and articles often have more than one main idea. In “The Boy Who Fought Hitler,” the author presents one main idea about Ben Kamm and the other partisans, and another main idea about Adolf Hitler and the events of World War II. This activity will help you identify these main ideas.

Directions: Answer the questions below with details from the article “The Boy Who Fought Hitler.” You will then put the details together to figure out the main ideas.

I. Main Idea About Ben and the Other Partisans

1. What was Ben Kamm’s life like before World War II? Include details from the article in your answer.

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2. How did Ben respond to the lack of food in the Warsaw ghetto? What does this tell you about him?

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How does the way Ben got food in the ghetto compare with what you read about his life before the war?

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3. What are some things the partisans did to fight back against the Nazis?

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Did many of the partisans have experience as soldiers? What does this tell you about them?

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4. What did Ben do as a partisan? How does this compare to his life before the war?

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Main Idea: Think about your answers to questions 1-4. What is a main idea about Ben and the partisans?

II. Main Idea About Adolf Hitler and the Events of World War II

5. How did some Europeans feel about Jews? How did Adolf Hitler use these feelings to turn people against Jewish neighbors, families, and business owners?

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6. In what ways did hateful thoughts and words lead to horrible actions against Jewish people?

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7. How was Ben’s family affected by Hitler’s plans?

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Main Idea: Think about your answers to questions 5-7. What is a main idea about Hitler and the events of World War II?