Words to Know

Directions: As you come across words in bold in “The Boy Who Fought Hitler,” ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Check their meanings here. Then complete the activity on the following page.

1. anti-Semitism: “Anti-Semitism—prejudice against Jewish people—is a fact of life in Warsaw, as it is in many European cities.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: prejudice and discrimination against Jewish people

2. humiliated: “The German people felt humiliated, tired, and bitter.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: ashamed or embarrassed

3. political party: “Hitler and his political party—the Nazis—gained power by tapping into these feelings.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: an organization of people who have similar beliefs and ideas about government and who work to have their members elected

4. rituals: “But their unique religion and rituals often kept them separate.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: acts that are always performed in the same way, usually as part of a religious or social ceremony

5. inferior: “He said they were ‘subhuman’ and ‘an inferior race.’” (p. 6)
   Meaning: of less importance or value

6. eliminate: “Eliminate the Jews,” Hitler proclaimed, “and you eliminate will all of Germany’s problems!” (p. 6)
   Meaning: get rid of

7. synagogues: “Synagogues were destroyed. Jewish-owned businesses were vandalized or burned to the ground.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: special buildings where Jews meet to worship and learn about their religion

8. ghetto: “The area, which became known as the Warsaw ghetto, was surrounded by a 10-foot wall topped with barbed wire and broken glass.” (p. 7)
   Meaning: a small section of a European city where Jewish people were once forced to live

9. epidemic: “An epidemic of the deadly illness typhus swept through the crowded apartments, killing thousands.” (p. 8)
   Meaning: a situation in which a serious disease spreads quickly among many people
10. sabotaged: “They blew up factories, sabotaged railroads, stole weapons shipments, and upset the flow of supplies to German troops.” (p. 8)
   Meaning: damaged or destroyed on purpose

11. executed: “Many of the Nazis who helped murder Ben’s family were executed for their crimes.” (p. 9)
   Meaning: put to death

Directions: For each statement below, fill in the circle to show whether you think it’s true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

1. If your short story were to win the first prize in a writing contest, you would probably feel humiliated.
   A true       B false

   Explain: ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. During a flu epidemic, doctors might see many more patients each day than usual.
   A true       B false

   Explain: ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. A campaign to eliminate litter in your neighborhood would likely lead the streets to become filled with garbage.
   A true       B false

   Explain: ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________