

Read together. Remember together.

Separated Together · Kenneth P. Price, Ph.D.

In 1939, Abe Huberman left Poland for a short trip to America. War prevented his return. His wife Sonia endured the Holocaust while Abe waited across the Atlantic. Separated Together follows their years apart, reunion, and the family life they rebuilt.

For your conversation

Choose four or five questions from this guide. Leave room for pauses, different interpretations, and the option to pass. The questions include major story developments.

A note on the subject

The book discusses persecution, concentration camps, and the murder of children. Agree on a considerate pace and avoid asking readers to disclose personal experiences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Separation & care

- 01** How does knowing Abe's trip was meant to be brief shape your reading of the separation?
- 02** What do the courtship chapters reveal about Abe and Sonia before the war?
- 03** How does the movement between Poland and America affect the pace and emotional experience of the book?
- 04** Which small act of care stayed with you, and why?
- 05** What roles do Sonia's sister, her cousin, and other women play in her story?
- 06** How does the narrative convey uncertainty when family members cannot communicate?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Reunion & family

- 07** What does Abe's adjustment to America reveal about language, work, and belonging?
- 08** How does the book hold Sonia's devastating losses alongside the life she later builds?
- 09** What makes reunion different from resolution in this story?
- 10** Which details of postwar family life feel especially important to the narrative?
- 11** How do celebrations and family rituals become occasions for passing on memory?
- 12** How does Kenneth's position as a son-in-law influence what he notices?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Memory & meaning

- 13** What different kinds of knowledge come from letters, interviews, records, and personal recollection?
- 14** Where does the book invite us to acknowledge the limits of what can be recovered?
- 15** How do Kenneth's psychological reflections affect your understanding of the family?
- 16** What responsibilities do descendants have when telling a loved one's story?
- 17** Which family story in your own life would you want to preserve, and how might you begin?
- 18** How has this book changed the questions you would ask about life after the war?

Carry the story forward.

The author's purpose

Gloria's audiences often asked for a book about her parents. Kenneth's account grew from that request and from years of knowing Abe and Sonia as family. This is an editorial summary of his stated motivation, not a quotation or a new first-person author note.

Historical context

The story begins in prewar Poland, follows Nazi persecution and the Holocaust, and continues through postwar displacement and family rebuilding in America. For historical definitions and teaching resources, consult the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Holocaust Encyclopedia: encyclopedia.ushmm.org.

A 60-minute discussion

10 minutes: opening impressions.

35 minutes: four or five selected questions.

10 minutes: family memory and preservation.

5 minutes: one thought to carry forward.

Groups may inquire about a brief virtual Q&A or moderated visit. Include your group size, proposed dates, and time zone. Visits depend on individual confirmation.

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