

Discussion Questions
Julia Lentini: Deprivation and Perseverance

Name _____

1. How does Julia describe family life?
2. What does it mean to Julia when Adolf Hitler comes to power? Why?
3. How does Julia describe her arrival at Auschwitz?
4. In Julia's experience, she describes death as commonplace in Auschwitz. How so?
5. Julia believed that to survive, one had to adapt. Describe ways in which Julia adapted to her surroundings.

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6. Sometimes nonverbal communication is used, either consciously or unconsciously, to convey intended meaning in visual media. Where are examples of Julia using gestures or other nonverbal techniques to illustrate her meaning?

7. After her transfer to the Schlieben concentration camp, Julia suffers a brutal and humiliating lashing. How might both the crime and punishment reflect Nazi beliefs?

8. Julia implies that she was fortunate to twice be chosen for kitchen duty. Why? How could the kind of “assignment” a prisoner received make the difference between life and death?

9. In any survivor’s story there are instances where luck made the difference between life and death. Besides her having been assigned to kitchen duty twice, can you think of other examples in Julia’s testimony where her survival depended at least in part on luck?

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10. In Julia's testimony, she described a German soldier whom the prisoners hid to keep him safe at the time of liberation. What might such a response by prisoners indicate?

11. Although Julia survived the Holocaust, she shared that in addition to physical scars, she was emotionally scarred. Discuss some of the ways her experience shaped her later life.

12. Why were dehumanization and degradation vital elements of the Nazis' plan for their victims?

13. In what ways did Julia still manage to assert her humanity and spirit even in the midst of extreme suffering and deprivation?

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14. Besides the Sinti and Roma, who were other groups targeted in the Holocaust, and why were they targeted?

15. Julia is just one of many survivors and witnesses who chose to give testimony about their experiences during the Holocaust. Why do you think people give testimony? Should they give testimony?

16. Intentionally inflicting conditions of deprivation resulting in dehumanization and genocide by attrition were not techniques invented by or ending with the Nazis. What other examples exist in the history of the modern world or in present day?

17. As members of a global citizenry, what actions can we take to stop and/or reverse conditions designed to deprive, dehumanize, and destroy that exist in the world today?