## Student Activity Nechama Shneorson: Survival and Loss

Name

Family is an essential theme in visual history testimony—as it is in most of our lives. Time and again in her testimony, Nechama Shneorson speaks lovingly of her family: her grandmother, Esther; her young parents, Jacob and Ethel; her oldest sister, Zlata; next-to-oldest sister, Ida; and her youngest sister, Genya.

**Directions:** In order to "meet" Nechama's family prior to viewing her testimony, spend some time studying the photo below. By using the description of Nechama's family above as guide, try to caption the photo with their names. At the end of Nechama's testimony, you will find out if you are right.



Photo courtesy of Nechama Shneorson

Photo Caption: "	is all the	way in the middle	on the top,	right
next to her on the right		is on her left		is holding on
her lap	In the middle is		and	, sitting

right on my father's lap, a child of three."

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#### To Be Completed Prior to Viewing:

1. Think about the following words of American photographer George Tice: "... You can only see what you are ready to see — what mirrors your mind at that particular time." Explain what you think Tice meant.

2. If you relate Tice's quote to Nechama's family picture, what are you "ready to see" in it at this moment? What are not yet able to see? What do you hope you will see or learn about Nechama's family after you have watched her testimony?

### To Be Completed after Viewing:

3. Now that you know Nechama's story, do you see the photo differently? How so?

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Because it is Nechama's testimony about her own life and family, it is a unique story, yet the loss reflected in it is an essential and far-too-common theme in visual history testimony. Write a letter to Nechama and tell her what her testimony has meant to you. If you want, scan or photocopy your own family photo and add it to the back of your letter in order to share your family with Nechama.

Dear Nechama,	
Sincerely,	