

NONFICTION: "The Boys Who Fought the Nazis" • SKILL: Central Idea, page 1 of 2

The Power of Information

Directions: Answer the questions below to identify the central idea in "The Boys Who Fought the Nazis." Be sure to write in complete sentences. When you are finished, you can use this activity to help you respond to the writing prompt on page 10.

Part I: Hitler and the Nazi Party

1. Answer the questions below to identify details about how Adolf Hitler and the Nazis used information.

a. What did Hitler tell Germans in speech after speech? Why did he say this?

b. What happened to people who spoke out against the Nazis?

c. What limits did the Nazis place on German newspapers and radio stations? What can you infer about how this affected what people believed?

d. Why was listening to foreign radio broadcasts banned?

e. What did children learn in the groups *Jungvolk*, the Hitler Youth, and the League of German Girls? Why do you think the Nazis created these groups?

2. Think about your answers to the questions above. What can you conclude about why it was important to the Nazis to control the information people received?

Part II: Karl, Rudi, and Helmuth

3. Answer the following questions to identify details in the article that show why and how Karl-Heinz Schnibbe, Rudi Wobbe, and Helmuth Hübener tried to resist the Nazis.

a. How did the boys receive information about what was happening in the war? What did they learn?

b. What method did the boys choose to resist the Nazis? Why do you think they chose this method?

c. Why do you think the penalties for their actions were so harsh?

d. Why do you think Helmuth made the final statement that he did before the judge?

4. Think about your answers to the questions above. What can you conclude about why information was important to Karl, Rudi, and Helmuth?

Conclusion

5. What central idea does the article express about the role of information in Nazi Germany?
