

WTL Homework Week 22

- 1) Finish reading *The Endless Steppe*.
- 2) Read a bio of Esther Rudomin Hautzig and answer the following:
 - a. Where and when was she born?
 - b. Where and when did she die?
 - c. What is one other book she has written?
- 3) Answer the following questions about the book with a **minimum of three sentences, supporting each of your answers with a quote**:
 - a) Describe three or four key elements of Esther's childhood in Vilna, explaining what her home and family were like.
 - b) Thinking back to the formerly wealthy lifestyle of the Rudomin family in Vilna, why do you think the baracholka (the village market) was so important to the grandmother and Esther?
 - c) At the end of chapter 5, the author describes herself and her grandmother as being "very" people – "either very sad or very gay, with nothing in between." Find two examples that demonstrate the optimistic character of Esther as a child, **and** two examples of the more realistic attitude of her mother.
 - d) Who is stealing the food? *Look very carefully at the reactions of everyone to discover who is the thief.* Why does Esther's grandmother not want to accuse the woman who is stealing?
 - e) Why do you think Esther's father tells the family that Esther must go to the movie with her classmates when invited, despite the expensive price?
 - f) At the end of the book, Esther has conflicting feelings about leaving Rubtsovsk and returning to Poland. What are three reasons she wishes to stay where she has lived for four years?
 - g) What were the two items of clothing that Esther wanted to wear when she returned to Poland? Why were they so important to her? What was her father's reaction when she arrived in Poland?
 - h) If Esther, her parents, and grandmother had remained in Poland during the war, what most likely would have happened to them? Read the end very carefully to get the correct answer.
- 4) Poetry: A soldier comes to your door. You have ten minutes to pack *one* bag. You don't know where you are going or for how long. What will you take with you in

your bag? Include in your list the reasons behind your choices (Ex.: *Why* that item of clothing?) Oh, and by the way, the soldier just confiscated all devices that connect to the internet.

- 5) Study for your vocabulary test. Vocabulary test is in two weeks. The practice quiz is on the website.

Vocabulary:

Delectable—delicious

Exile—to banish a person from his country

Fastidiously—with great attention to detail

Immaculate—without flaw or error

Monotony—unchanging, boring

The essay is **NOT** due next week, however the following are the prompts so you can begin working on brainstorming and gathering information to begin your essay.

- Every culture has particular items that are important to its members. What items are essential in Rubtsovsk that would not be relevant in Vilna? This uses your imagination more, but you still must support your answers from the book and support the reasons for your choices. Among other things, consider clothing, culture, work, and home.
- What are three ways Esther changes over the course of the book? Look at how she is in the beginning, how she changes, and what causes her to change. Think about the causes and effects of her being sent to Siberia.
- What are three ways that Esther is an outsider when she arrives in Rubtsovsk? How does she overcome this?
- Compare and contrast the situation Esther's family faces in *The Endless Steppe* with Jeanne Wakatsuki and her family in *Farewell to Manzanar*.