

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Nazi Invasion, 1944



READ-ALOUD

(SUITABLE FOR NOVEL AND GRAPHIC NOVEL VERSIONS)

In this read-aloud from *I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944*, Max and Zena reunite with their father. Assign roles to your family and friends, and recreate Max and Zena's amazing reunion.

CHARACTERS:

Narrator
Zena
Max
Lookout guard
Hannah
Martin
Lev
Papa



ART BY SCOTT DAWSON

Narrator: Rumors swirl in the partisan hideout about the Nazis being pushed out of Russia and eastern Poland. Hannah, Martin, and Lev have gone on a fact-finding mission, and Max and Zena are waiting for them to return.

Zena: Do you think they'll have news?

Max: If anyone can find information, it's Hannah.

Narrator: Suddenly there's a shout from the treetop lookout.

Lookout guard: They're back!

Narrator: Max and Zena run to the sunken bridge to see Hannah, Martin, and Lev coming toward them across the water. And there's a fourth person with them. A person who looks very familiar...

Zena: (*whispering*) Max, is that—

Max: I must be dreaming.

Narrator: Max closes his eyes and opens them again, expecting the man to disappear. But he doesn't. The man is real. The man is...Papa.

Zena and Max: Papa! We're here!

Narrator: Max and Zena rush into the water toward their father. They haven't seen him

READ-ALOUD (CONTINUED)

since policeman arrested him with other Jewish men and took them all away. Max and Zena throw themselves into his arms. Hannah smiles as they hug.

Hannah: Be careful now, you three.

Martin: We don't want to have to fish you out of the water after you've just reunited!

Hannah: Let's head back to the hideout.

Narrator: Hannah leads them all over the sunken bridge.

Papa: I can't believe my eyes. Look at you. How you've both grown in just a month. How did you children manage?

Zena: Max took care of me.

Max: We took care of each other.

Lev: Your children are resourceful, fast-thinkers. You should be proud.

Papa: I am. I am indeed.

Max: What happened that night, Papa? Where did you go?

Zena: We didn't know if you were alive or dead. We heard gunshots.

Max: And rumors about trains bound for prison camps.

Papa: I was put on a train with many others, headed to a place from which no one comes back. I got lucky—I escaped. But when I made my way back home to Esties, no one was there. Not even the Nazis.

Max: No one? But when we left, there were still people in the ghetto.

Papa: They were all put on those trains. I'm sorry, children. You must know, I looked everywhere for you. *Everywhere.*

Zena: We know, Papa.

Papa: Then someone told me about an old farmer named Jablonski who rescued two kids from a field and hid them in his barn. I was sure it had to be you.

Narrator: Papa's eyes well up with tears. He takes his children's' hands and gives them a squeeze.

Papa: I knew I'd find you.

Max: You always do, Papa.

Papa: Now let's make that dream of yours come true, Max—let's find a way to go to America. We will start anew and leave this all behind.

Zena: Can we play hide-and-seek in America, Papa?

Papa: Of course we can. We'll be free to do as we please. We'll be...free.

Narrator: Papa laughs his warm laugh, and for the first time in a long time, Max feels hope. ■