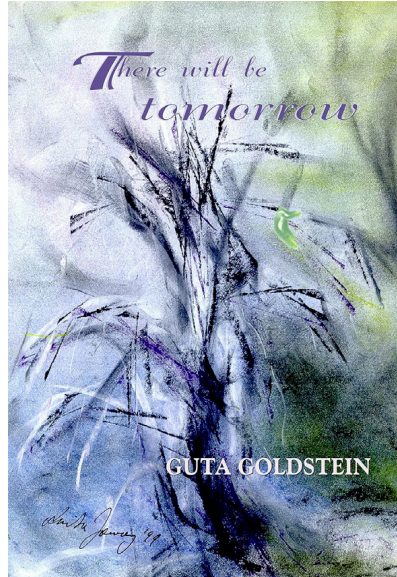
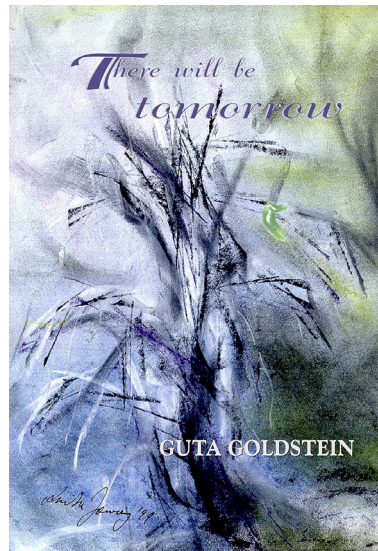


LEARNING THROUGH MEMOIR

‘There will be Tomorrow’ by Guta Goldstein



Guta Goldstein was born in Lodz, Poland in 1930. Her mother died before World War Two. In 1939, following the outbreak of war, Guta, her father and her sister were forced into the Lodz Ghetto. Guta spent more than four years living in the ghetto, where both her father and her sister died as a result of the inhumane conditions. In 1944, she was transported to Auschwitz, a death and forced labour camp. Her aunt and cousin were murdered in the gas chambers on arrival. Guta and two other cousins were sent to several other camps. They were liberated in 1945. Guta spent four years in Italy waiting for a country to give her a permanent home. In 1949, she came to Australia, where she started a new life and a new family.



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Theme: Pre-War Jewish Life

Context: Guta describes aspects of life in the Polish city of Lodz before World War Two and the 1939 invasion by Nazi Germany.

Page numbers: p15 (“Grandfather had a filigree...”) to p16 (“...in my grandparents’ home.”)

Approximate word count: 580

GLOSSARY

filigree: ornamental work made from delicate metal wire, in this case silver

fashioned: made

fragrant: sweet smelling

Havdala: Jewish religious ceremony

Shabbat: Sabbath; holy day (from Friday night to Saturday night)

liqueur: sweet alcoholic spirit

Passover: major Jewish religious festival

cornet: cone

blotting paper: thick, absorbent paper

murky: dark

purified: cleansed

sediment: solid particles

fermenting: turning into alcohol

aromatic: pleasant smelling

mutual: shared

deprived of: have something taken away

bestow: give

indulgence: allowing others special pleasures or treats

aroma: scent

plumpness: quality of being fat

chalog: plaited loaf of bread

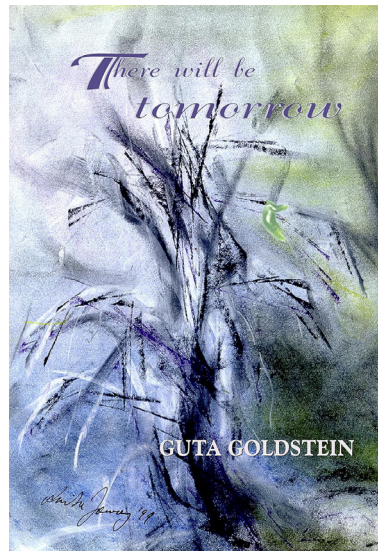
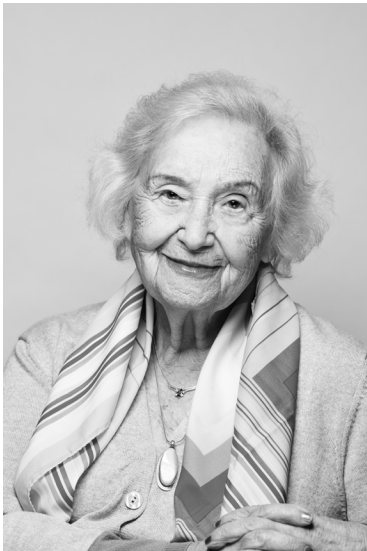
fascinated: interested

kosher: food that satisfies the requirements of Jewish law

observant: following the rules of a particular religion

shame: humiliate; embarrass

absorbed: learnt automatically



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Theme: War

Context: Guta describes the events of 1 September 1939, and the next few days, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland, starting World War Two. She was nine at the time and living with her family in the Polish city of Lodz.

Page numbers: p95 (“It was late summer...”) to p97 (“...the city of my birth.”)

Approximate word count: 570

GLOSSARY

mackerel: type of fish

agitated: troubled

inkling: slightest idea

subsequent: following

air raid shelter: underground bunker for protection against bombs

patriotic: expressing love for one’s country

bravado: boldness or confidence

null and void: non-existent

Warsaw: capital of Poland

jackboots: knee-high military boots

menacingly: threateningly; scarily

cobblestones: stones used for the surface of streets

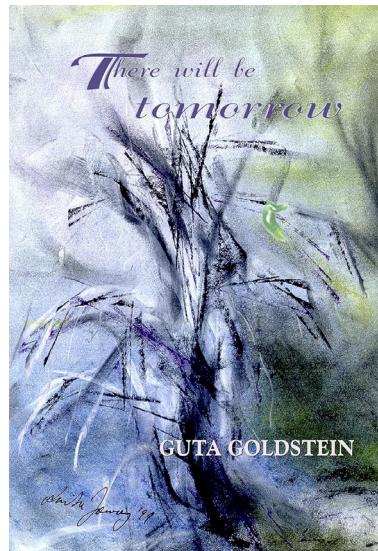
reverberated: echoed

Student Questions

On the lines: Identify the city in which Guta and her family were living.

Between the lines: Explain how Guta's family and neighbours underestimated the power of Nazi Germany. What was their mood in the air raid shelter, and how was this challenged by later events described in the extract?

Beyond the lines: Jewish people were often accused of lacking loyalty to the countries in which they lived. Analyse the ways in which this extract contradicts this stereotype. In what way were Jewish people patriotic towards Poland?



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Theme: Persecution

Context: Guta describes anti-Jewish edicts, or rules, introduced by Nazi Germany after its occupation of Poland. She describes the men in her family returning safely from Warsaw, where they had gone to help defend the Polish capital from the Nazis. She was nine at the time of the Nazi invasion.

Page numbers: p98 (Lodz was occupied ...) to p99 ("...guess at its possible outcome.")

Approximate word count: 540

GLOSSARY

Lodz: Polish city where Guta lived

jackboots: knee-high military boots

goose-stepping: marching with high, straight legs

swastikas: Nazi symbols

ominous: suggesting dangerous events in the future

patriotic: love of one's country

Deutschland über alles: German national anthem

true colours: what they really believed

edicts: official orders or rules

strasse: street

proclaimed: announced

Grandparents Gallant: the parents of Guta's step-mother

Andrzejow: village in Poland

alternating: taking turns

our countrymen: Guta is referring to non-Jewish Poles

stocking up: buying large amounts

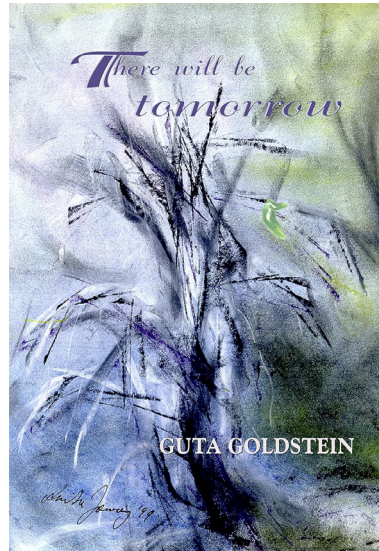
Kopel family: Guta's family

on their way home: the men in the family were returning to Lodz from the Polish capital Warsaw, where they joined the unsuccessful defence of the city from the Nazis

humiliated: made to feel ashamed or embarrassed

Orthodox Jews: traditional, religious Jews who sometimes wear distinctive clothing; for many, beards are an important part of their religious identity

indignities: treatment that causes someone to feel ashamed or embarrassed



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Theme: Ghettoisation

Context: Guta describes conditions in the Lodz Ghetto, where she and her family were forced to live following the invasion by Nazi Germany. Guta lived in the Lodz Ghetto from the ages of nine to 14.

Page numbers: p102 (At first, all Jews had to wear yellow armbands...) to p104 ("The year was 1940.")

Approximate word count: 720

GLOSSARY

six-pointed yellow star: cloth badge featuring a Jewish symbol that people were forced to wear to identify them as Jewish

indignities: treatment that causes someone to feel ashamed or embarrassed

proclaimed: announced

vacate: leave

Baluty: a district in Lodz

designated: declared

ghetto: poor part of a city or town where Jewish people were forced to live in isolation from the rest of the population in over-crowded conditions and with inadequate food

isolation: separated from non-Jewish Poles

Middle Ages: a period in history in which there was extreme discrimination against Jews

decrepit: run down

means: way

ingenious: extremely clever

sleigh: sledge or cart designed to be used on snow or ice

identical twin: an identical house next door

dumplings: balls of dough

jasmine: a fragrant climbing plant

annexe: a smaller building or room adjoined to a larger one

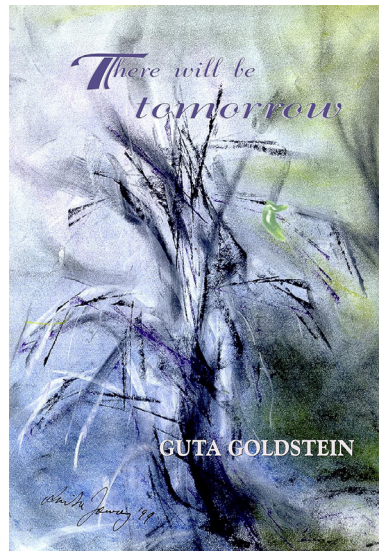
minute: tiny

communal: shared by all

acquaintance: known, but not a friend

Munia: Guta's younger sister

janitor: caretaker



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Theme: Deportation

Context: Guta describes her deportation from the Lodz Ghetto to Auschwitz-Birkenau death and slave labour camp in August 1944. Guta was deported along with her Aunt Golda and cousins Inka, Carmela and Meniek. Guta's father Judah and younger sister Munia had already died in the Lodz Ghetto due to the appalling conditions. Guta was 14 when she was deported.

Page numbers: p149 ("Most of the neighbours were gone...") to p150 ("...lies about 'relocation'.")

Approximate word count: 350

GLOSSARY

Biber family: neighbours

deported: transported by force, in this case to the death and slave labour camp Auschwitz-Birkenau

raid: capturing Jewish people for deportation

Raus [German]: out

deserted: empty

SS: elite unit of Nazis who were in charge of the mass murder of Jewish people

Schnell [German]: fast

bellowed: yelled

captor: SS man who captured Guta's family group in the raid

distraught: extremely upset

ghetto: poor part of a city or town where Jewish people were forced to live in isolation from the rest of the population in over-crowded conditions and with inadequate food; in this case, the Lodz Ghetto

cattle train: train designed for transporting cows or other livestock

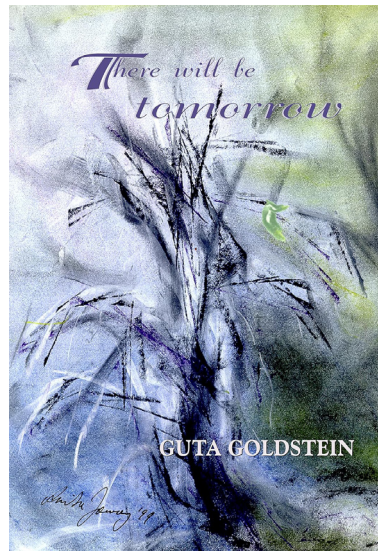
sustenance: food

duration: length of the journey

swallowed: believed

perfidious: untrustworthy

'relocation': moving to another place; in this case, the Nazis informed Jewish people that they would be sent east to a place they could find work



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Theme: Selection and Murder

Context: Guta describes her arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau, a death and slave labour camp, with her Aunt Golda and cousins Inka, Carmela and Meniek. She describes the 'selection' process, in which at first males and females were separated, and then some people were selected to go straight to be murdered in the gas chambers. Meniek and Aunt Golda were both selected to be murdered. Guta was 14 at the time.

Page numbers: p152 ("The cattle train wagons...") to p155 ("...why he didn't notice me.")

Approximate word count: 820

GLOSSARY

cattle-train wagons: carriages on a train designed for transporting cows or other livestock

simultaneously: at the same time

assailing: attacking

tumult: confusion, chaos

Raus! Raus! Alle raus! Schnell! Schnell! Schneller

Machen! [German]: Out! Out! Everybody out! Fast! Fast! Make it faster!

someone in a blue and grey striped garment: the person Guta is referring to here is a Jewish prisoner working at the camp as a slave labourer

apparitions: ghostly figures

terrorised: extremely frightened

haste: hurry

concession: allowance; understanding

propelled: pushed forward

sheer: nothing other than

din: loud noise

SS: elite unit of Nazis who were in charge of camps and the mass murder of Jewish people

commotion: confusion; chaos

Meniek: Guta's cousin

Carmela: Guta's cousin

heart-rending: causing sadness or distress

laments: cries of grief or sorrow

rectify: make up for

etched: permanently marked

philosopher: person who thinks deeply

reserved: quiet

idle chatter: talking about trivial or unimportant matters

thongs: densely packed crowd

barrage: relentless repetition

dreaded: feared

visor: stiff brim of a hat

breeches: short trousers

condemned: sentenced

intimidation: designed to frighten

Inka: Guta's cousin

my aunt: Guta's Aunt Golda

spectre: ghostly figure

incredulous: disbelieving

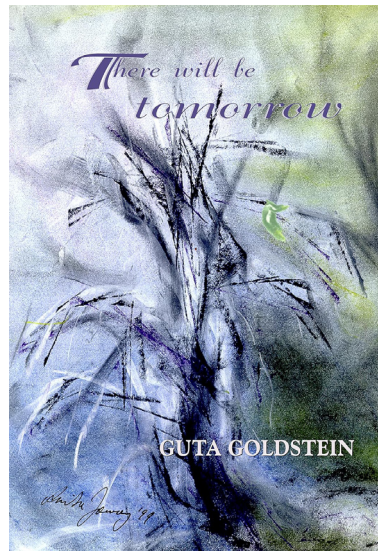
rechts [German]: right

defies description: cannot be described

numb: in this instance, felt dead inside

candidate: in this instance, the one chosen to be murdered

selection: process of selecting certain prisoners, in this case choosing people to be murdered in gas chambers



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Theme: Camps

Context: Guta describes conditions at Auschwitz-Birkenau death and slave labour camp, where she was imprisoned for six weeks from August to September 1944 with her older cousins Inka and Carmela. Guta was 14 at the time.

Page numbers: p163 (“Nothing lived in Auschwitz.”) to p163 (...forbidden to talk.” [13 lines from bottom of page])

Approximate word count: 250

GLOSSARY

commandant: Nazi officer in charge of the camp

SS: elite unit of Nazis in charge of camps and the mass murder of Jewish people

inmates: prisoners

block: living space for prisoners

barracks: living space for prisoners

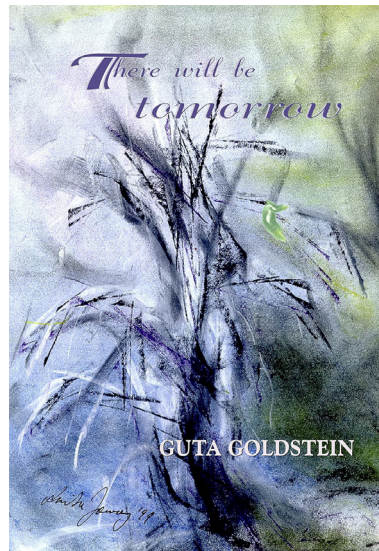
Blockältester: prisoner appointed to be a leader of a block

Stubendienst: senior prisoner

subordinate: lower in rank or position

orderly: someone who carries out minor tasks

woe betide: warning that something extremely bad will occur



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Theme: Courage

Context: Guta describes narrowly avoiding being sent to the gas chambers at one of the regular selections during her six weeks in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Guta was imprisoned with her older cousins Inka and Carmela. They were joined by Cesia, a friend of Inka's from the Lodz Ghetto, and Mrs Jakubowicz, a woman on her own who had asked to join their 'group'. Guta was 14 at the time.

Page numbers: p167 ("On that day...") to p170 ("...survive that selection.")

Approximate word count: 820

GLOSSARY

abreast: side by side

selection: process of selecting certain prisoners, in this case to be murdered in the gas chambers

humiliation: feeling ashamed or embarrassed

guise: outward appearance

blemish: defect; imperfection

barrack: building where prisoners were housed

quota: the number of people the guards were required to select to be murdered in the gas chambers

ovens: Guta is referring to the crematoria, where the bodies of people murdered in gas chambers were burned

Lodz Ghetto: ghettos were poor parts of a city or town where Jewish people were forced to live in isolation from the rest of the population in over-crowded conditions and with inadequate food; before being sent to Auschwitz, Guta lived in the ghetto established by the Nazis in Lodz, her hometown

petrified: extremely frightened, to the point of not being able to move

selectors: SS officers choosing who would be sent to be murdered in the gas chambers

gleam: brightness

arrogance: unpleasant self-importance

culottes: knee-length trousers resembling a skirt

truncheon: stick used as a weapon

German Shepherd: breed of dog used by Nazis to intimidate and control Jewish people

SS: elite unit of Nazis in charge of camps and the mass murder of Jewish people

jackboots: knee-high military boots

breeches: short trousers

insignia: logo; symbol

revolver: gun

glee: delight

Inka: Guta's cousin

Carmela: Guta's cousin

Cesia: friend of Inka's from the Lodz Ghetto

Mrs Jakubowicz: woman on her own who asked to join Guta, her cousins and Cesia in their 'group' of five

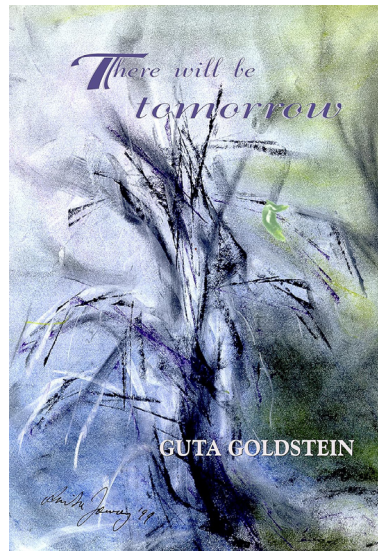
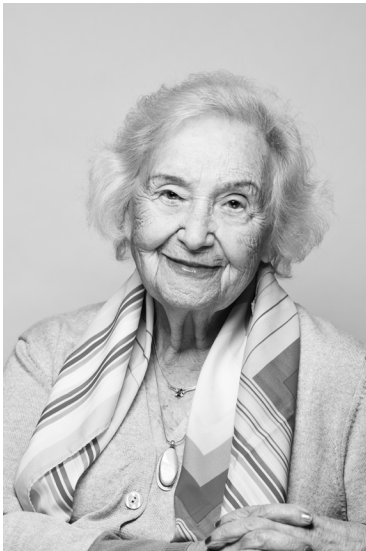
foolhardy: reckless; foolish

conceal: hide

marred: spoiled

impending: about to happen

unwittingly: without knowing it



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Theme: Resistance

Context: In December 1944, Guta, aged 14, was transferred to a small camp near the German village of Meltheuer, where prisoners worked as slave labourers making aircraft parts. Guta was too small to reach the machines in the factory, so she was assigned to work as a cleaner of the living quarters for the SS guards, which she did alongside Cesia, a friend of her cousin Inka. Guta and Cesia were guarded by SS officers as they did their work, but also came into contact with civilian Germans who worked at the factory. Guta describes her interactions with one of these civilians, Herr Lehman.

Page numbers: 187 ("Cesia and I...") to 188 ("...the highest order.")

Approximate word count: 480

GLOSSARY

Cesia: friend of Inka's from the Lodz Ghetto

outlandish: strange

Herr: Mister (Mr)

civilian: someone not in the military

veteran: former soldier

watchman: caretaker

cubbyhole: small building that served as Herr Lehman's office and watch post

SS: elite unit of Nazis in charge of camps and the mass murder of Jewish people

barracks: building where prisoners were housed

foremen: those in charge of workers

earshot: hearing range

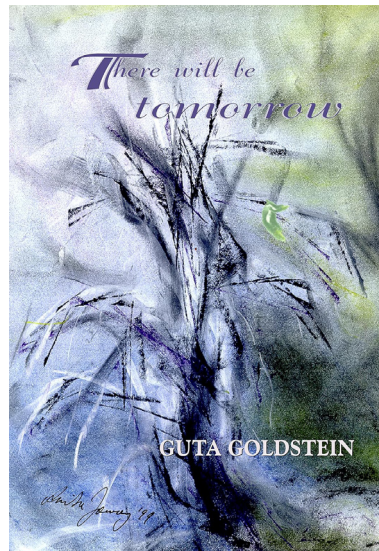
bunks: beds on top of one another in the barracks

liberation: freedom

Inka: Guta's cousin

Carmela: Guta's cousin

phenomenon: thing



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Theme: Liberation

Context: Guta describes events leading up to the liberation, as well as the actual liberation, of the slave labour camp at Meltheuer in Germany. She recounts the new commandant of the camp refusing orders to send the prisoners on a so-called death march, and discusses his motivation for doing so. At the time of liberation, on 16 April 1945, Guta was 15.

Page numbers: 193 ("While we were cleaning...") to 195 ("...in the many camps.")

Approximate word count: 610

GLOSSARY

Americans: American army, which was fighting Nazi Germany

Herr Lehmann: non-military worker at the camp who had befriended Guta and her companions

commandant: officer in charge of the camp

elder: respected senior prisoner

towards Czechoslovakia: to an area that was more securely under German control

resolved: decided

stand him in good stead: be helpful to him by making him look better

proper authorities: the commandant was referring here to the Americans, who he expected to win the war

spared: saved from

death march: forced march of prisoners, in which many were shot or died from starvation, cold or exhaustion

Obersturmführer: senior Nazi

Obersturmführer Fischer: previous commandant (officer in charge of the camp), since replaced

deserted: empty

sporadic: occasional

KL: initials for 'concentration camp' in German

Inka: Guta's cousin

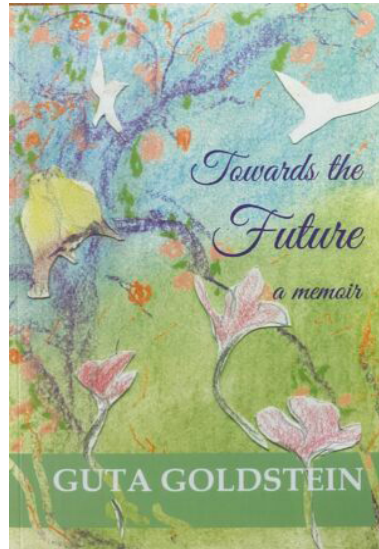
pork lard: pork fat

letters to or from soldiers at the front: letters between German soldiers and their families

inmates: prisoners

miraculously: resembling a miracle

inmates: prisoners



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Theme: Return to Life

Context: Guta describes her arrival in Melbourne in 1949 with her cousin Inka, Inka's partner Hansi and their two small children, Giselle and Rosie. Guta had spent four-and-a-half years in Italy as a displaced person waiting to be accepted to live in a new country. She was 19 when she arrived in Australia.

Page numbers: p103 ("The Cyrenia brought us safely...") to p105 ("A New Beginning!")

Approximate word count: 350

GLOSSARY

Cyrenia: ship on which Guta travelled to Australia

berthed: place where a ship is docked or moored

glimpse: quick look

disembark: get off

elation: great happiness

apprehensive: anxious or fearful

customs officers: government officials

rummaged: searched

multitude: many

Inka: Guta's cousin

Hansi: Inka's partner

wicker trunk: plaited wooden suitcase

Rosie: Inka and Hansi's daughter, born in Italy after the war

Jewish Welfare: Jewish organisation that helped Jewish migrants who came to Australia

Camberwell: Melbourne suburb

endured: had to go through

hostel: place that provides cheap group accommodation

distraught: upset

commune: group accommodation

dormitories: communal bedrooms

Student Questions

On the lines: How long since the Nazi invasion of Poland did it take for Guta to have the opportunity to start her life again in Australia?

Between the lines: Explain the complex emotional response Guta had to arriving in Australia. Why might this have been a time of extreme and contrasting feelings for her?

Beyond the lines: Use the extract to explore the challenges faced by Holocaust survivors after arriving in a new country. In your response, include challenges that are not referred to in the extract.