

The life of Arek Hersh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRxZqBC2xNI> (the sound will crackle in the first two minutes, this will stop)

Questions

1. Answer the questions (you do not need full sentences) as you watch the video

In which country did Arek grow up?	
At the age of eleven Arek was taken from his home and relocated to a work camp near Poznan. What was it like living there?	
Of the 2,500 people that had lived in the camp how many survived?	
In what type of building were 4,000 Jews rounded up in Sieradz (1942) by the Nazis?	
What were conditions like here?	
Whilst pleading for some water from an SS guard, Arek was asked what his profession was. What did he say?	
Why did Arek lie to this guard?	
What was significant about this occasion for Arek?	
At the age of thirteen where was Arek now living?	
What were conditions like here?	

How had Arek's body changed during this time?	
Whilst wandering the streets Arek was told about somewhere that was slightly better than the ghetto. Where was this?	
How were the Jews for the ghetto "resettled" to the East?	
Where did the Jews arrive?	
How long did Arek spend there?	
How old was Arek whilst there?	
Describe Arek's experience here:	
With the Russian army closing in what did the Nazis make all Jewish people do?	
What temperature was it?	
After walking in these horrific conditions Arek was taken to a destination on a train. Where was this destination?	
What was important about Buchenwald?	
The Nazis then began pointlessly ferrying Jews around on open topped railway carriages. How many started this journey? How many survived it?	

What were the conditions like on this journey?	
On what day was Arek liberated?	
How many members of Arek's immediate family did he lose?	
What food did Arek have to eat after his liberation? Why?	
Arek was one of 300 children who were chosen for something. What was this?	
What were the conditions like in Windermere?	
How many survivors did the British Red Cross manage to locate from the 300 children?	
What job did Arek train for, and spend his life doing?	

Questions (continued):

1. In your exercise book, write down a chronology of Arek's life and experiences during the Holocaust/Shoah. This should include the key facts from the questions above.
2. Reflection – in your opinion, what should we take away from Arek's experience?
3. Reflection – How do you feel about the Holocaust/Shoah having learned of Arek's experiences with it.
4. Reflection – Having heard Arek's story, what are your thoughts about people who refuse to believe that the Holocaust/Shoah happened – “Holocaust deniers”
5. Challenge (optional) – Research a different Holocaust survivor. Write a fact file about a different person who survived the Holocaust.