

NOT A COMPLETE COURSE PLAN - FOR SAMPLE VIEWING PURPOSES ONLY◆◆◆ *I AM DAVID* ◆◆◆**WEEK 1**

I Am David is the amazingly powerful story of the homeward journey of a 12-year-old boy who has been raised in a Russian Communist concentration camp. While the story is written in the third person, we see everything through David's eyes and learn to understand not only what he thinks, but why he thinks the way he does. The author has expertly captured and encapsulated the psychology of a boy in this position while engaging the reader in the physical journey itself. No less important than David's journey to his mother is his spiritual journey, his strict adherence to nonviolence in the face of danger, and the blossoming of his humanity through his viewing beauty and allowing himself to feel emotions.

Characters:

- David**, A 12-year-old boy who has lived his entire life in a Communist concentration camp and has been given an opportunity for freedom
- The Man**, the Commandant of the David's concentration camp
- Johannes**, David's mentor/protector in the camp

Historical Background:

It would be helpful for your student to have some background on the Russian Revolution of 1917. Here are a few web links that may be helpful.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Revolution_of_1917

<http://libcom.org/history/russian-revolution>

Geographical Locations: Studying the geography of places mentioned in a great story is very educational and highly satisfying. We recommend your student keep a map or atlas and a write-on blank map handy to chart David's journey in the story. Google Earth is a free program the can breathe life into the study of geography: <http://earth.google.com>

Towns David Visited:

- Salonkia, Greece
- Salerno, Italy
- Naples, Italy
- Perugia, Italy
- Florence, Italy

Communist Concentration Camps:

- Communist Concentration camps (also called Gulags) were first introduced at about 1917 in Russia after the communists overthrew the Czar. (Parents, see also: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulag>)
- These camps were made to imprison people who opposed the communists and people *they* did not particularly like; these camps were also used for slave labor.

Memory Gem: "From now on he would think for himself and make his own decisions, and his feet and hands and body would be his servants to do his bidding."

IAD

Vocabulary. Look up this week's vocabulary words. Make your own crossword puzzle with your own clues to the vocabulary words by hand or by using Puzzlemaker at the following link:
<http://www.puzzlemaker.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.html>.

	<p>Read Chapters 1-2.5 stop at “. . . went back to his loaves.” (page 48). Read each chapter, then answer its study questions. Do the written assignment on Thursday.</p> <p>Written Assignment: One beautiful scene gave David the will to live. Why is beauty so important to human beings? How would you feel if you lived in a world without beauty as David did in the beginning of the story?</p>
<p>MON to WED</p>	<p>Read Chapter 1. David, a twelve-year old boy, who has never known any life outside the concentration camp, is unexpectedly helped by the prison guard to escape. He is given a compass, a bottle of water, some bread, a piece of soap, a box of matches, a pocketknife, and directions on how to get to Denmark. He walks by night and sleeps by day to keep from being caught. He hears men talk about Salonika and secretly hitches a ride on their truck and arrives in Salonika where he, as instructed to do, sneaks on a ship headed for Italy. A crew member discovers him and helps him slip off the ship. It is night, and he heads away from the water and in the morning finds himself on a hillside overlooking the beautiful countryside. It is here that he realizes he wants to live. Read Chapter 2. David finds a stream, uses the soap, and cleans himself and his clothes. He knows he has to find a safe place to spend the day, and for the first time he feels that he was free. He takes the chance of crossing a road and eventually finds a cave in which to spend the days. He had found an orange but doesn't know what it is or if it is edible, but he eats part of it and enjoys it. He then realizes that he does not know anything and wonders how he can stay free without knowing what others know. He remembers that he had learned many languages from other prisoners while in camp and knows that will help. He finally overcomes some of his fear of <i>them</i> and gets up the courage to go into the town evenings and learns a great deal about life in the real world.</p> <p>Vocabulary: catastrophe, imperceptibly, quayside, preoccupied, variegated, runnel, lithe, verge</p> <p>Chapter 1 Study Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did David trust the man who offered him a chance at freedom? 2. What was the only thing David had ever asked a guard for? 3. What animal awakened David as it was growing dark one evening? 4. Why did that animal worry David? 5. How did David get injured? 6. What clues do we have so far that tell us David has witnessed horrors in his short life? 7. What eased David's journey to Salonika? 8. Whose memory helped David get to Salonika? 9. Why did the Italian sailor find David strange? 10. In what language did David converse with the sailor? 11. How did the sailor help David? 12. What made David cry? 13. Why did it make David cry? 14. What did he decide because of what he saw in that first town in Italy? <p>Chapter 2, first half Study Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did David decide one had eyes for? 2. What languages did David know? 3. What did David do at the stream? 4. What did David do with the twig? 5. What had David eaten all of his life? 6. Why was David concerned about what he did not know?

	<p>7. What was the rule in the prison camp that the prisoners had made for themselves?</p> <p>8. Why couldn't the prisoners ever escape?</p> <p>9. What was the one thing David had on his side?</p> <p>10. What did David hear as he was exploring the town in daylight that surprised him?</p> <p>11. What difference did David notice between the people in this Italian town and the people at the prison camp?</p> <p>12. How did David know a building was a church?</p> <p>13. How did David get the loaf of bread?</p>
THUR	Complete the written assignment (see above) in a minimum of 1 paragraph, due Monday.
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Notes</div>	
WEEK 6	
IAD	Written assignment: Congratulations! You have finished reading <i>I am David</i> . Now you need to write a nice book report on the story.
MON to WED	Written Assignment. Work on your book report. Review your paper to make sure everything you have written supports your thesis statement, and the entire paper has a gentle flow from one supported idea to the next. Check for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. Rewrite the paper neatly if you are writing it in long hand.
THUR	Study for the Final Exam. Review your written assignments, the geographical locations, and the characters.
FRI	Final Exam.

NOT A COMPLETE ANSWER KEY - FOR SAMPLE VIEWING PURPOSES ONLY**WEEK 1****Chapter 1 Study Question Answers**

1. Did David trust the man who offered him a chance at freedom? *No*
2. What was the only thing David had ever asked a guard for? *A piece of soap*
3. What animal awakened David as it was growing dark one evening? *A sheep*
4. Why did that animal worry David? *Because it meant people would be nearby*
5. How did David get injured? *He ran through thorns*
6. What clues do we have so far that tell us David has witnessed horrors in his short life? *We glimpse David's reaction to the horrors he has been exposed to through statements like, ". . . you must not let what you heard or saw penetrate your thoughts," and "He was familiar enough, through his experiences in the camp, with what happened when a man was left without food and water."*
7. What eased David's journey to Salonika? *He sneaked inside a truck that was driving there*
8. Whose memory helped David get to Salonika? *Johannes*
9. Why did the Italian sailor find David strange? *David had drunk the sailor's wine without knowing it was wine; David did not run away when he was caught; David's eyes looked like the sailor's grandmother's eyes just before she died*
10. In what language did David converse with the sailor? *Italian*
11. How did the sailor help David? *He gave him bread and a lifebelt, and he lowered David over the side near a town, so he would not be discovered.*
12. What made David cry? *The beauty of Italy.*

Chapter 2, first half Study Question Answers

1. What did David decide one had eyes for? *To see beauty*
2. What languages did David know? *The language "they" spoke, French, German, English, Italian, German, Hebrew, and Spanish*
3. What did David do at the stream? *He thoroughly washed himself and his clothes*
4. What did David do with the twig? *He cleaned all of his nails*
5. What had David eaten all of his life? *Only bread and porridge and soup*
6. Why was David concerned about what he did not know? *Because he did not know a lot of things that most people who live in freedom know. That ignorance could cause him to be recaptured*
7. What was the rule in the prison camp that the prisoners had made for themselves? *That one must never talk about food*
8. Why couldn't the prisoners ever escape? *Because their chances were too slender*
9. What was the one thing David had on his side? *He had strong tough muscles, sharp eyes and ears, and he was used to doing without food*
10. What did David hear as he was exploring the town in daylight that surprised him? *Pleasant laughter*
11. What difference did David notice between the people in this Italian town and the people at the prison camp? *The people here were beautiful, especially the women*

Written Assignment: One beautiful scene gave David the will to live. Why is beauty so important to human beings? How would you feel if you lived in a world without beauty as David did in the beginning of the story? *Answers will vary.*

NOT A COMPLETE EXAM - FOR SAMPLE VIEWING PURPOSES ONLY

Part I. Identify. Give a description and character analysis of each of the characters. (2 pts ea)

1. David
2. "The man" i
3. Johannes
4. "They" and "them"
5. Carlo

Part II. Short Answer. Answer the following questions. (2 pts ea)

1. Why did David always think of the guard as "the man"?
2. What did "the man" do for David?
3. Why did David hesitate?
4. How did David get to Salonika?
5. What did David do after he got to Salonika?
6. What made David realize, for the first time, that he wanted to live?

Part III. Essay. This should be a minimum of three paragraphs with examples or quotes from the text to support your answer. (24 pts)

Write your own prologue to the story. Make it consistent with David's temperament and personality.

NOT A COMPLETE EXAM ANSWER KEY - FOR SAMPLE VIEWING PURPOSES ONLY

Part I: Identify. Give a description and character analysis of each of the characters. (2 pts ea)

1. **David** is the main character of the book, a twelve-year old who has been in a concentration camp in Eastern Europe for his whole life. Given the opportunity to escape, he does so. He is completely unsophisticated in the ways of the real world and struggles to learn all he can while making his way to Denmark as instructed by "the man".
2. **"The man"** is the concentration camp guard whom David has always hated, but for some unknown reason gives David the means to escape the prison.
3. **Johannes** was David's friend and mentor in the concentration camp who was shot and killed by *them*. Johannes had taught David many important facts about life including sound moral values and valuable character traits.
4. **"They" and "them"** are the Communists, especially the guards of whom David is so frightened.

Part II: Short Answer. (2 pts ea)

1. He hated the guard and "giving him a name would be like admitting that he knew him."
2. He gave him the means to escape the concentration camp, providing him with supplies, directions on where to go, and letting him know when he should leave.
3. He was distrustful and thought it might be a trap.
4. After walking at night for five nights, he came near to a town. He heard two men talking and heard the word "Salonika". He hid himself in their truck and hitched a ride without their knowledge.
5. He went to the harbor and sneaked onto a ship bound for Italy, where "the man" had told him to go.

Part III. Essay. This should be a minimum of one paragraph with examples or quotations from the text to support your answer. (24 pts)

Write your own prologue to the story. Make it consistent with David's temperament and personality.

Points to look for:

- ❖ David was unable to smile spontaneously.
- ❖ He resisted physical contact with people.
- ❖ He was afraid of love.
- ❖ He was searching for God.
- ❖ He was totally honest, trustworthy, and sincere.

NOT A COMPLETE GLOSSARY - FOR SAMPLE VIEWING PURPOSES ONLY

All Definitions for the Vocabulary lists have come from Merriam Webster's Dictionary at www.m-w.com

A-C

abominable: 1 : worthy of or causing disgust or hatred : detestable <the *abominable* treatment of the poor> 2 : quite disagreeable or unpleasant <*abominable* weather>

D-F

despised: 1 : to look down on with contempt or aversion <*despised* the weak> 2 : to regard as negligible, worthless, or distasteful

G-I

gramophone: an instrument for reproducing sounds by means of the vibration of a stylus or needle following a spiral groove on a revolving disc or cylinder

J-P

kiosk: 1 : an open summerhouse or pavilion 2 : a small structure with one or more open sides that is used to vend merchandise (as newspapers) or services (as film developing) 3 : a small stand-alone device providing information and services on a computer screen <a museum with interactive *kiosks*>

Q-Z

quayside: land bordering a quay (a structure built parallel to the bank of a waterway for use as a landing place)