

You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

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| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

Growing up in Ukraine, all I knew was that I was different. I didn’t leave milk and cookies out for Santa on Christmas Eve, nor did I wait for the Easter bunny to bring me chocolate eggs. I grew up as a Jew, unaware of how large and dramatic this difference seemed to be to others, those ignorant of other faiths.

Although born on the outskirts of Russia, my mother and I moved to a small town in Ukraine to live with my grandparents after my parents’ divorce. There were only several Jewish families, and most of them kept to themselves, afraid of being harmed. But even with a weak Jewish center, this over-sized village still possessed a synagogue, filled with beautiful music and inspiring decorations. It was every Saturday that my mom would take me there in hopes of me being brought closer to my religion and my people.

However, the morning of Yom Kippur was different. Joined by three other families, we proudly walked to the synagogue, anticipating an emotional and spiritual service ahead. Little did we know, there was a crowd waiting for us at the entrance to the synagogue, filled with anti-Semitic sentiments. The temple itself has already been broken into, graffiti covering most of the walls, the glass shattered. And even though we heard shouts and swears from a distance, my mother nudged me to keep walking, afraid of being late.

Entering the town square, I quickly noticed the change of scenery, the angry mob that seem to get closer and closer with every second, rocks clutched in every fist. Instinctively, my mother, my loving, gentle, and lenient mother, turned into a lioness, shielding me with her body, ready to pounce at any being that hurt her cub. And as the first rock hit my forehead, I felt a stinging pain piercing my head, with images of nothing but my mom’s grief-stricken face frozen in front of my eyes.

As the rocks continued to fly at our heads, my mother grabbed me into her bleeding arms and dragged away into the safety of the shadows. I sobbed as we continued to run, still hearing angry shouts echoing behind us. I sobbed as my mother tended to my wound, wiping away the blood from my face. I continued to sob even as my mother took my hand, and we slowly walked home, hidden by the shadows of the trees. No one followed us, and yet I still felt as if we were being watched, having my back drilled with hateful stares.

That day, I learned that I believe in freedom of religion. That day, I also learned about the harm that hatred can bring to world, especially the hatred and inability to accept others for their religious beliefs.

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| Your response should be self-contained. When someone reads your responses, they should be able to tell which question you are responding to.  In marking the essay you should be clear in what idea and item you are reacting to. The markings should indicate a close and personal reading of the essay. Excessive markings or lack of markings may indicate a failure to have closely read and comprehended the essay. |  |
| Based on your reading and marking of the essay identify the main idea of the essay as well as support including direct quotations and evidence from the essay. Your response should be limited to no more than one (1) well written and adequately edited paragraph. |  |
| Using at least two (2) of the writing prompts below and in no more than three (3) well written and adequately edited paragraphs create a response to the essay:   * The part (s) of the essay I agreed with were * The part (s) of the essay I disagreed with were * This essay reminded me of/ made me think of * This essay made me think in a new way * This essay was similar to another essay |  |
| What question (s) would you like to ask the author of this essay? Explain your reasoning for wanting to have the answer to this question. |  |
| Having now read this essay I… |  |
| **Presenters Only:** You will need to have three (3) questions that you would like to present to your classmates during your seminar. |  |

The time I completed reading and marking this assignment was: