

The Pianist



Hollywood vs. History Student Workbook

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Introduction: The Geography of World War II



1. Label Poland and color it yellow.
2. Label Germany and color it pink.
3. Label Ukraine and color it green.
4. Label Russia and color it red.
5. What large body of water borders Poland to the north? Color it blue and label it on the map.
6. Label the city of Warsaw and mark it with a star.

7. How many other countries can you identify on this map of Europe?
 8. Name the two major European powers that declared war on Germany following the German invasion of Poland.
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Characters: Describe each major character as you watch the film.

Wladyslaw Szpilman

Mrs. Szpilman

Mr. Szpilman

Halina Szpilman

Henryk Szpilman

Regina Szpilman

Dorota

Itzak Heller (Jewish Police Officer in the Warsaw Ghetto)

Mr. Schultz (Businessman Working in the Warsaw Ghetto)

Majorek (Jewish Worker Involved with the Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto)

Captain Wilm Hosenfeld (German Officer)

World War II in Poland: Timeline

Complete the following timeline as you watch “The Pianist,” adding information on each event from the film.

September 1, 1939: Germans invade Poland.

October 1, 1939: Germans enter Warsaw, Poland.

October 31, 1940: _____

March 15-21, 1942: _____

August 1-October 2, 1944: Warsaw uprising; Germans victorious.

January, 1945: Soviet troops enter Warsaw.

Questions: Answer the following questions as you watch the film.

1. List three restrictions placed on Warsaw’s Jewish population by the Nazis.

2. How do the Szpilmans earn money in the Warsaw ghetto?

3. How is Wladyslaw rescued from deportation to a concentration camp?

4. What work does Wladyslaw do after being separated from his family?

5. How do Jewish workers smuggle weapons into the Warsaw ghetto?

6. Why is Wladyslaw forced to leave the first Warsaw apartment in which he hides?

7. Why does Wladyslaw become ill while hiding in the second Warsaw apartment?

8. After being locked into the second Warsaw apartment, how does Wladyslaw escape?

9. Wladyslaw is discovered by a German officer while attempting to open a can of food. Why does this officer let Wladyslaw live?

10. Why do Soviet soldiers fire upon Wladyslaw when they enter Warsaw?

11. When did Wladyslaw Szpilman die?

12. What becomes of Captain Wilm Hosenfeld, the German officer who helps Wladyslaw?
