

World History Quarter Book Project

Please submit to Canvas by the end of the quarter. It will not be accepted late.

General Information – 10 points

Title of Book: The One Man

Genre of Literature (historical fiction or non-fiction): Historical Fiction

Author: Andrew Gross

Publisher: Minotaur Books

Copyright Date: 2016

Number of pages (150-page minimum): 737

Setting(s): The world during world war two. We see some of it in america, some in england, and some in Nazi occupied Poland.

Main Characters – Name and give a brief description of 3-5:

Alfred Mendl- A scientist who taught at a university. He has the key to nuclear fission that the americans need to make the nuclear bomb. He is sent to Auschwitz and they have to try everything to get him out.

Nathan Blum- A jew from poland that went through persecution but then got out as he took religious artifacts to america. He then joined the Army and he worked as one of the best translators. Before being sent on this mission to retrieve Alfred.

Captain Strauss- A war hardened captain who was essential to setting up the mission. He was also a Jew, like Nathan and he was the person briefing Nathan about the mission.

Book summary/point of view – 10 points

In about 100 words, provide a brief summary of the plot of the book. Include the time period in which it takes place.

The One Man takes place during world war 2. We follow Nathan Blum and ALfred Mendl. Alfred is a scientist who has the keys to the nuclear bomb and the americans need him so that they can develop a bomb before the Nazis. The only problem is that Alfred is taken into a concentration camp so they sent Nathan to retrieve him. Nathan being a Jew himself could blend in and sneak into Auschwitz, to get Alfred back. It is a dangerous mission and when Nathan is briefed about it he is skeptical but he eventually agrees and will go down in history.

From whose point of view is the book told? How does this influence the story?

This book is told from a few different people's point of view, Alfred, Nathan, and Captain Strauss. It being told this way lets you know what all the people are thinking. Like what the american government thought and what they would do in these situations. Or the trauma a concentration camp victim goes into through Alfred. Or even the courage you can see through Nathan and his actions. It lets you get a view on this great conflict from many different people's point of view.

Application questions – 35 points

5 points each – each answer should be a minimum of 50 words)

What is the most important event in the book? Why is it the most important? When does this event take place in the book (page numbers)?

I think that the most important event in the book is on page 120-132. Here Blum inquires on the mission and we get a real sense of his morals as we learn that he is a pretty good guy and he has a sense of humor. We also learn about the government's take on what is going on and how a mission like this would even be set up.

Choose one character – Give a more detailed description of their role in the book, and then compare them to someone you know personally today. Use two quotes from the book to help illustrate your description – cite page numbers where the quotes are found.

The character I choose for this section is Nathan Blum. He is the main character and the one that actually goes on the mission. I would compare him to my father. I say this as my father seems to have a lot of courage like Nathan and is willing to take risks for what is right. "This man ... if I get him out. Will it save lives or cost them in the end" Page 132. This quote shows that Nathan is a good man as he is concerned with the general outcome. "'Bisse yid?' Blum inquired, speaking in Yiddish." Page 130. This shows Blum's Jewish heritage.

Use two quotes from the book to show new things you have learned about this time period in history. Explain what each quote helped you to better know or understand – cite page numbers.

"Marta was dead. He knew that in his heart," This shows just how bad the Nazi concentration camps were as people lost all hopelessness, and were full of despair. "Did you not hear me, I said let it go Jew!" This shows how much control the Germans had over the Jews as they were able to overpower them and control their every move.

How might our world be different today if the historical events in your book had turned out differently? Use two different examples to explain your answer.

I think that the world would be much, much different. If this mission had failed the Allies would have lost the war as they would not have developed a bomb and this would lead to many more problems. I also believe that if this had gone differently then many, many more Jews would have been exterminated and we would see a much different America in the world today.

What are three life lessons that can be learned from this book – how does each apply to your life?

There are many life lessons that you can learn from this book. One in particular is the importance of courage. Courage is what drives all of us and we can learn this from Nathan Blum in how he risks his life. We can also learn reasoning from Nathan as when he is contemplating whether to do this, he doesn't think of his personal gain but that of others from it. And lastly we can learn sacrifice from this, as Nathan puts everything on the line for people he has never even met.

If you were to give this book an alternate title, what would it be? Explain why.

If I had to give this book an alternate title I would call it, Home, Far From Home. I would call it this because in a sense when Nathan goes to retrieve Alfred he is going home. But his home has changed a lot. His family was killed, the Nazis took over. It's dark and gloomy and would be much different than it used to be.

Explain in about 50 words why you would or would not recommend this book to your classmates.

I would recommend this book to my classmates. I say this as it is very inspiring and shows what real courage is. It also has a good story and a fairly quick pace making it easy to get through. It is a pretty long book which might scare some people away but I think that it needs to be that long to completely tell the stories of all these people. I would recommend this to anyone with interest in World War 2 or books with a lot of action if they enjoy historical fiction.

Cite any sources beyond the book that you used to complete this project.