

## Reading 2B

### THE STORY OF THE TWO NATHANS

Read each question first. Then, read the selection, “The Story of the Two Nathans.” Finally, discuss the questions.

#### Questions:

1. What are the similarities and differences in the two stories?
2. What might be occurring to some other teenager somewhere in the world at the moment you are reading this that is comparable to what Nathan C. in Krakow experienced?

On March 5, 1943, in a Midwestern city, the Jewish family of 18 year old Nathan C. worried about his late return home from a date. His parents were concerned—he has not called, he might be hurt. Each moment brought them more anxiety. A neighbor walked by the house and they ran to the window. A car drove down the street and their hopes were raised only to be brought down, leaving them in deeper concern. He arrived late and was scolded. He had been delayed in traffic.

At exactly the same time, on March 5, 1943, the Jewish family of 18 year old Nathan C. worried about his late return. Each moment brought his parents more anxiety. Someone walked by and Nathan’s mother wept when she saw that it was not her son. A truck drove past their window and they cringed with fear. Curfew time came and still Nathan was not home. Their anguish increased. He had been seized by an SS unit on the streets of the ghetto in Krakow, Poland, and put into a forced labor gang. They never saw him again—he was beaten, shipped to a labor camp, and then to Auschwitz, the death camp, where he died in a gas chamber. His parents never learned this—they were worried, and eventually, they, too, died in Auschwitz.

BASED ON A TRUE STORY.