A stranger on a bus pretends that a young Jewish woman is his wife in order to protect her from the SS.

NOTES TO TEACHER:

Review some Nazi history before reading this to younger students.

We have included a wonderfully warm story about a Holocaust survivor in the book. It is titled “She Didn’t Pray for a Miracle,” and contains a single, multi-level plan for your use.
Pre-questions:

Have you ever helped a total stranger with anything (i.e. picked up a dropped article, held a door, given directions, etc)?

• How did it feel?

Is there anything in the world so important to you that you might consider risking your life for it?

• If so, what is it?

Read Story

Post-questions:

Why was Sussie crying on the bus?

What were the SS looking for on the bus?

What would they have done had they found out that Sussie was a Jew?

How did the stranger on the bus save Sussie?

Was this stranger in any danger for lying to the SS?

• If so, what?

Student activities:

Pretend you are Sussie.

Write a letter to the stranger, thanking him.
Discuss smaller acts of “heroism.”

Establish a “Classroom Hero” bulletin board (stopping a bully, tutoring someone, etc.).

Put up pictures of any student exhibiting “daily heroism.”

Do further research and discussion of the Holocaust.

Draw a picture of something about this story.

Get in small groups and act out the story for the class.