



# Geraldine Shenkin on Marianne Grant



1. In what ways did antisemitism affect Marianne's life?
2. What do we learn about Theresienstadt? What were the conditions and what kind of activities went on?
3. What do we learn about Marianne's experience at Auschwitz?
4. What has Marianne's legacy been?
5. What was the impact of Marianne's experience on Geraldine? How did it affect her life when growing up or as an adult?

## Glossary

### **Theresienstadt**

Theresienstadt was presented in propaganda to Jewish people as a model Jewish settlement but in reality, was a ghetto run by the SS which served as a transit camp for Jews on route to extermination camps. The camp operated during November 24 1941 and May 9 1945 in northern Czechoslovakia, where 35,440 Jews died in the ghetto and 88,000 were deported.

### **Mock Café**

Pretend cafes were set up in the ghetto when a Red Cross visit was taking place, to give the impression that people living there were being treated well.

### **Transport to the East**

The train journey to Auschwitz concentration camp.

### **Auschwitz**

Complex of concentration and extermination camps in Poland, of which Auschwitz-Birkenau was the camp with gas chambers. There were 1.1 million people murdered on this site, Jewish and non-Jewish.

**Bergen-Belsen**

A concentration camp in northern Germany. Originally a prisoner of war camp, it became a concentration camp in 1943. Over 70,000 people were murdered on this site.

**Slovak Collaborator**

The Slovak republic was created in 1939 when the state accepted a demand from Hitler to split from Czechoslovakia. In return for this independence, the Slovak military fought alongside Germany in the War.

**SS**

The SS, short for *Schutzstaffel* (German for “Protection Squadron”), was originally formed as Adolf Hitler’s personal bodyguard unit. Over time, it grew into one of the most powerful and feared organizations in Nazi Germany. The SS was in charge of protecting Hitler, enforcing Nazi policies, and controlling German secret police and concentration camps. They played a central role in carrying out the Holocaust and other crimes during World War II. The SS acted above the law and was responsible for many acts of violence, discrimination, and terror in the Nazi state.

**Pleurisy**

An inflammation of the lining of the lungs and chest cavity which causes sharp chest pain. This was one of many illnesses experienced by people in the camps during the Holocaust as a result of the harsh conditions.

**Typhoid**

An infection spread through unclean water or contaminated food. Most common in areas with poor sanitation, it would have spread easily amongst people in camps.