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If you look up the word “bullying” in the dictionary, then you would see something like this:

Bullying. Verb. Using superior strength or influence to intimidate (someone), typically to force them to do something. It can be in the form of words, actions, and even laws. That's right, bullying doesn't always have to happen at the playground. It can happen anywhere, from a school to the country.

The Holocaust began by the government bullying the people. It started when Adolf Hitler was elected the Chancellor of Germany. He wanted a "superior" race, and he was going to do whatever he could to get it. Like everything else in life, this bullying started off small. The Germans began boycotting Jewish shops, stores, and workers. Despite the popular belief, the Holocaust didn't immediately start off with concentration camps, there were segregation laws, too. In around 1935, Jews had their rights as German citizens taken away so that they weren't allowed to marry or have kids with non-Jews. Every Jewish passport had to be marked with a large, red letter "J". Then everything became dreadfully severe. On November 9th, 1938 there was Kristallnacht, "The Night of Broken Glass," when about 100 Jews were murdered, 20,000 others arrested and sent to camps, and many Jewish shops, businesses, and synagogues were burned or destroyed. Three days later, Jews were fined one billion marks for the damages Kristallnacht caused. In October of 1939, they began sending Jews from Austria and Czechoslovakia to ghettos in Poland. One of the bigger ghettos was the Warsaw Ghetto, located in the Polish capital. These were incredibly small, confined spaces surrounded by brick walls, barbed wires, and armed guards. And if you wanted a house, you had to build it. The entrances weren't sealed off yet, so Jews could still travel outside, but they had to be back by the curfew. About a month later, the famous "Yellow Star" or "Star of David" was introduced. Every Jew in Poland, over ten years old, had to wear arm bands or badges with Jewish Stars so that they could be easily identified. Jewish shops also had to have yellow stars on them so that the Germans could continue boycotting them. Around a year later, the Warsaw Ghetto was sealed off, trapping around 400,000 Jewish people inside. Three years afterward, an order was issued to transport the Jews in the ghetto to Treblinka, an extermination camp. A group of around 800 mainly young people smuggled weapons into the ghetto.

They fired on the Germans and held out for about a month before the Germans out powered them by shooting them or capturing them and sending them to death camps. Some months later, Russians started advancing, so the death camps and all other evidence were destroyed. Two years later, Germany's military forces were deflating, so all camps and evidence were destroyed. As the Allied Powers closed in on the camps, the Germans frantically moved the Jews out and forced them to walk through horrendous weather conditions. Couldn't keep up? You were shot. Hitler realized that the Allied Powers were going to capture him soon, so he committed suicide. Accounts differ as to the cause of his death: some say he shot himself, others claim that he bit into a cyanide capsule. A week later the Germans surrendered and the remaining leaders were put on trial.

Learning about the Holocaust can be very overwhelming, and we just want to forget it and pretend it never happened. We can't. It's something to be remembered, to be understood, to be taken as a lesson. It's not something to be forgotten. Bullying also isn't something to ignore. Look how something like bullying led to the horrors that occurred during World War II! We need to enforce the dangers of bullying. It could destroy our world. We can't do this alone. You need to remember the Holocaust and understand what caused it. If one person can do this, then we are one step closer to our goal: a peaceful world.

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