

**Matthew Slade – Third Place Elementary, FSUS**

**The Night of Violet's Despair**

My eyes darted to the left. The Nazis were still there, punching out glass with their gloves. I was inside my parent's bookshop, hiding in the dark corner. I was so scared. I waited until they left and crept out into the streets. All the shelves in every shop were stripped bare and the books, synagogue, and orphanage were all burned to dust, except for one shop. It belonged to my friend's dad. As I put the pieces of the puzzle together in my head, I realized we were Jewish and they were not. Then, I remembered my mom saying the people in charge of Germany, the Nazis, were bloodthirsty killing machines and the laws against Jews were getting really bad. My Dad was scared because a Jewish teenager, Hershel Grynszpan, had assassinated Secretary Ernst von Rath and he thought they would take it out on all the Jews. I guess they were right because everything was gone and about one hundred people were killed.

The next day, when I was walking to school, I saw my classmates staring at it with blank eyes. There was a black sign that read "No Jews Allowed". I was banished from going to school. Already devastated, I came home to see my mom with her face in her hands, wet from tears. She looked up and said "Your father has been arrested, Violet. The cruel Nazis arrested all of the men in the area. We have to get out of here." Later that night we broke out into the street, and got on a train out of Germany. It was extremely difficult and expensive but as many Jews as could also left. After that, the Holocaust officially began and most that stayed were killed. I was lucky and now, I am known as one of the survivors. I try to tell people every day about the Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass. We need to remember this event, to honor the

knowledge, art and lives that were lost, and so we can learn from the mistakes of that time so it never happens again.

### **Bibliography**

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#### Museum of Tolerance Online

<http://motlc.wiesenthal.com/site/pp.asp?c=gvKVLcMVIuG&b=394831#1>

#### History Learning Site

[http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/kristallnacht\\_consequences.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/kristallnacht_consequences.htm)

#### PBS.org

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/holocaust/peopleevents/pandeAMEX99.html>