

The Silver Sword

Ian Serraillier

1 Put the following events in the story in the right order. Number them 1–10.

- a ___ Ruth decides to go to Switzerland.
- b ___ American soldiers put Jan in prison.
- c ___ Joseph gives Jan the sword.
- d ___ Ruth, Edek and Bronia find their parents.
- e ___ Joseph escapes from prison.
- f ___ The children escape by canoe.
- g ___ The children stay on the Wolff's farm.
- h ___ Joe takes the children to a refugee camp by Lake Constance.
- i ___ Ruth and Bronia meet Jan.
- j ___ Ruth and Bronia find Edek.

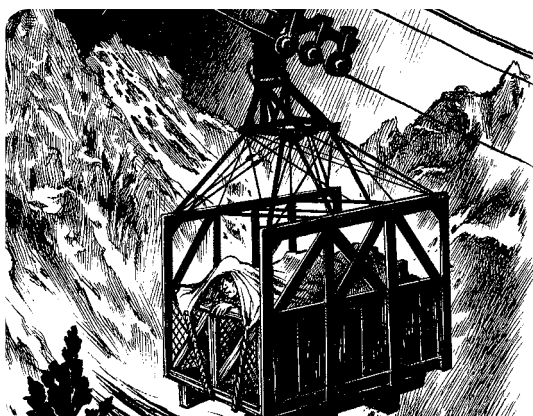
20 marks

2 Who said this in the story? Who did they say it to? *Jan, Ruth, Bronia, Joseph, the Wolffs, Ivan (the Russian soldier), Greenwood (the American captain).*

- a 'I'll give you this sword if you do something for me.' to
- b 'The whole of Warsaw wants to see my officer.' to
- c 'He was going to Switzerland to find your mother.' to
- d 'We don't have enough money to pay 200 marks.' to
- e 'I'll remember you for ever.' to

20 marks

3 Look at this picture and answer the questions.



- a Who is this?
- b What has he just left?
- c Where does he want to go?
- d Why does he want to go there?
- e Does he get there?

10 marks

4 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a ___ Ruth's mother is Swiss.
- b ___ Edek was caught taking a chicken to the city.
- c ___ When they met, Jan liked Edek.
- d ___ Jan stopped the trains to take food.
- e ___ Both the Wolffs' sons were dead.
- f ___ The Burgomaster said they could stay with the Wolffs.
- g ___ Jan wanted to go back to the Wolffs for the sword.
- h ___ The I.T.S. helped children to find their parents.
- i ___ The I.T.S. found Jan's parents.
- j ___ Ruth married a Frenchman.

20 marks

5 Can you describe how the children travelled from Posen to Switzerland?



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30 marks

Total marks

Setting

Choose the best answer.

- 1 The story is about a family in _____ during the Second World War.
a ☐ Germany b ☐ Russia c ☐ Switzerland d ☐ Poland
- 2 The father and mother were taken to _____.
a ☐ America b ☐ Russia c ☐ prison camps d ☐ live on a farm
- 3 It was _____ when Joseph was taken away.
a ☐ 1950 b ☐ 1945 c ☐ 1940 d ☐ 1948
- 4 The children left their house to escape from _____.
a ☐ the Americans b ☐ their parents c ☐ the Nazis d ☐ the Polish police
- 5 During the first winter and spring the children lived _____.
a ☐ in a cellar b ☐ on a farm c ☐ in a prison d ☐ in a school
- 6 In the early summer they went to live in a _____ outside the city.
a ☐ forest b ☐ school c ☐ camp d ☐ prison
- 7 They began to walk _____ to Switzerland.
a ☐ south b ☐ north c ☐ east d ☐ west
- 8 After _____ left, the children had to look after themselves.
a ☐ Edek b ☐ Jan c ☐ Ruth d ☐ Ivan
- 9 _____ passed without news of Edek.
a ☐ Six months b ☐ Two years c ☐ Two weeks d ☐ Three years
- 10 By January 1945, the Nazis were gone and Warsaw was in the control of _____.
a ☐ the Russians b ☐ the Americans c ☐ the Polish d ☐ the Swiss

20 marks

Characters

Choose the best answer.

- 11 Joseph Balicki was _____.
a ☐ a German Soldier b ☐ a farmer in Poland c ☐ the headmaster of a school d ☐ an American guard
- 12 Joseph's wife, Margrit, was _____.
a ☐ Polish b ☐ Swiss c ☐ German d ☐ American
- 13 Joseph and Margrit had _____ children.
a ☐ three b ☐ four c ☐ five d ☐ two
- 14 Mrs Krause was _____.
a ☐ the mother of Jan b ☐ a prisoner with Joseph c ☐ the mother of a child at Joseph's school d ☐ a teacher at Joseph's school

- 15 Joseph met Jan in _____.
a ☐ Warsaw b ☐ the prison c ☐ Switzerland d ☐ Germany
- 16 Jan kept the sword in _____.
a ☐ a wooden box b ☐ the cellar of the house c ☐ the lorry d ☐ the prison
- 17 Jan had a cockerel called _____.
a ☐ Jumpy b ☐ Bumpy c ☐ Scrumpy d ☐ Jimpy
- 18 Ruth found her new life difficult until she _____.
a ☐ met Jan b ☐ went to the prison c ☐ started the school d ☐ went to Germany
- 19 Frau Wolff's sons were _____.
a ☐ German soldiers b ☐ American soldiers c ☐ prison guards d ☐ Polish soldiers
- 20 After the war, Ruth went _____.
a ☐ to Zurich university b ☐ to France c ☐ back to Warsaw d ☐ to America

20 marks

Dialogue

Who said this?

- 21 'What happened to my wife?'
a ☐ Mr Krause b ☐ a German soldier c ☐ Joseph d ☐ an American soldier
- 22 'I'll give you this sword if you do something for me'
a ☐ Mr Krause b ☐ Joseph c ☐ Jan d ☐ Mrs Krause
- 23 'We'll have to go over the roof.'
a ☐ Jan b ☐ Ruth c ☐ Edek d ☐ Bronia
- 24 'From now on, we will have to look after ourselves.'
a ☐ Ruth b ☐ Edek c ☐ Jan d ☐ Joseph
- 25 'I'm not a little girl, I'll be eighteen next week.'
a ☐ Ruth b ☐ Bronia c ☐ Mrs Krause d ☐ Eva
- 26 'That's a nice welcome, isn't it?'
a ☐ Ruth b ☐ Jan c ☐ Edek d ☐ Ivan
- 27 'Switzerland is still a long way away. We must go on.'
a ☐ Ruth b ☐ Jan c ☐ Joseph d ☐ Edek
- 28 'You stopped the train and were going to steal food from it.'
a ☐ Captain Greenwood b ☐ the farmer c ☐ Jan d ☐ the Burgomaster
- 29 'All Polish and Ukrainian refugees must be sent home by tomorrow.'
a ☐ Kurt Wolff b ☐ Frau Wolff c ☐ the Burgomaster d ☐ Captain Greenwood

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- 30 'Mother was sitting with you when you were asleep. She went away before you woke up.'
a ☐ Jan b ☐ Ruth c ☐ Edek d ☐ Joseph

20 marks

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

- 31 a room at the top of the house, under the roof
a ☐ kitchen b ☐ cellar c ☐ ruin d ☐ attic
- 32 a room under the ground in a house
a ☐ cellar b ☐ attic c ☐ rapids d ☐ study
- 33 part of the river where the water moves very fast
a ☐ zone b ☐ rapids c ☐ elastic d ☐ stream
- 34 to fall down suddenly because you are ill or weak
a ☐ faint b ☐ silly c ☐ trip d ☐ grow up
- 35 to send out air from the mouth and throat in a noisy way
a ☐ faint b ☐ cough c ☐ ruin d ☐ sneeze
- 36 not sensible; stupid
a ☐ playful b ☐ refugee c ☐ elastic d ☐ silly
- 37 a place for people to live for a short time
a ☐ cellar b ☐ camp c ☐ attic d ☐ house
- 38 a kind of string that gets longer as you pull it
a ☐ camp b ☐ nail c ☐ elastic d ☐ rope
- 39 to take care of someone or something
a ☐ grow up b ☐ look after c ☐ bring up d ☐ cough
- 40 a building that is almost destroyed and is falling down
a ☐ ruin b ☐ cellar c ☐ attic d ☐ camp

20 marks

Plot

Choose the best answer.

- 41 During his first winter in prison Joseph _____.
a ☐ tried to escape many times b ☐ escaped with other prisoners c ☐ wanted to stay there d ☐ was too ill to escape
- 42 It took Joseph _____ weeks to walk home to Warsaw.
a ☐ four and a half b ☐ three c ☐ three and a half d ☐ five and a half
- 43 Joseph found the silver sword in _____.
a ☐ his old school b ☐ the ruins of his old house c ☐ the ruins of the church d ☐ his kitchen

- 44 The children escaped from their house by _____.
a ☐ running out of the front door b ☐ running out of the back door c ☐ moving from roof to roof d ☐ sitting on the roof
- 45 The children decided to go to _____ to find their mother and father.
a ☐ Switzerland b ☐ Poland c ☐ Germany d ☐ Russia
- 46 Edek walked more slowly and his _____ was no better.
a ☐ foot b ☐ cough c ☐ leg d ☐ head
- 47 Jan and Edek had to go to court for _____.
a ☐ stealing bread b ☐ escaping from prison c ☐ stopping a train d ☐ selling butter
- 48 Jan wanted to stay with Frau Wolff because _____.
a ☐ he didn't have a mother b ☐ he didn't want to go home c ☐ he was tired d ☐ he loved their dog
- 49 The Wolffs gave the children _____ to escape.
a ☐ a lorry b ☐ two bicycles c ☐ two canoes d ☐ train tickets
- 50 At the end of the story the family lived _____.
a ☐ in an international children's village b ☐ in their old house in Poland c ☐ on a farm d ☐ in the mountains in Germany

20 marks

Total marks