

Graffiti Day Text Excerpts

“I, who consider myself just plain Leo, was not only given that long name, but I was called, by my parents and grandparents, Leopolddeinemannetjelif, which no one can pronounce, and which means **Leopold my dear little man**. As you can imagine, and lucky for me, no one else called me that.”

“We could not go to public schools.”

“We ate a lot of sugar beets and a lot of tulip bulbs. If there had not been a war, nobody would have eaten those things.”

“Pop decided to approach Mr. Kinnebanyan to ask if he could sell some rugs to make some money.”

“Mom was very upset and scared, but she knew it was the right decision.”

“I was 8 years old; my brother was 1.”

“We were on deck when we reached New York Harbor.”

“We were not allowed to use public transportation, trains, buses or trams.”

“In 1936, my parents married in a Jewish Synagogue in Amsterdam, the capital city of Holland.”

“How? Through the extraordinary deeds and decisions of some very brave people.”

“They had lost an awful lot of weight and looked like scarecrows.”

“He saw that not only healthy people were getting on the trains, but also very old and very sick people, babies and women.”

“She always had a wonderful life, lived in a beautiful home, had lots of friends, went skiing in Switzerland, went horseback riding all over Europe, and now all of the sudden everything had to change.”

“As a little boy I could not be quiet all the time. I would surely make noise, perhaps even scream and yell and cry out loud, run around and break things.”

I was extremely lucky, because Oma and Opa Schimmel were very good to me. They took care of me, and they loved me.”

“It took a few days to get used to my real parents and say goodbye to the Schimmels.”

“We soon had a nice house near a canal in Amsterdam and even a little car.”

“Everyone was outside, cheering and screaming, happy as everyone can possibly be, that this horrible war and occupation had finally ended.”

“She always treated to bowls of whipped cream with ginger.”

“When Napoleon, the French war hero, took over Holland in the early 1800s, he made most people take the name of animals.”

