

Hopes and Dreams

Despite the severe hardships Jewish children had to endure, many still harboured hopes and dreams for the future. These wishes were often expressed in the children's diaries, drawings and poems.

Avraham Koplowicz was born in Lodz in 1930. He lived in Lodz during the war, and was eventually deported to the Auschwitz extermination camp and murdered. A notebook of his survived, containing drawings and poems.

A Dream

By Avraham Koplowicz

*When I grow up and reach the age of 20,
I'll set out to see the enchanting world.
I'll take a seat in a bird with a motor;
I'll rise and soar high into space.*

*I'll fly, sail, hover
Over the lovely faraway world.
I'll soar over rivers and oceans
Skyward shall I ascend and blossom,
A cloud my sister, the wind my brother.[...]*

Discussion Questions

Many children expressed their hopes for the future during the war.

Avraham wrote this poem while living in terrible conditions in the Lodz Ghetto. Yet this text presents a completely different reality – how do you think that can be? What is the role of imagination in survival?

Moshe Flinker, 16, Belgium:

December 8, 1942"During the past few days when my mother raised the question of my future, my reaction was again one of laughter, but when I was alone, I too began to ponder this matter. What indeed is to become of me? It is obvious that the present situation will not last forever--perhaps another year or two--but what will happen then? One day I will have to earn my own living. [...] After much deliberation, I've decided to become...a statesman."



Discussion Questions

What can we learn from this excerpt about Moshe's attitude towards the war?

What influence, if any, do you think his situation had on Moshe's decision to become a statesman?

On April 7, 1944, after being betrayed to the Gestapo, the entire Flinker family was arrested and eventually sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, where Moshe and his parents perished.

