

EXHIBIT TOUR for School Classes

THE EXHIBIT

This exhibit "For the Child" commemorates the arrival of 10,000 Jewish children in Great Britain who fled from persecution under National Socialism.

THE CHILDREN'S TRANSPORTS

Between the end of November 1938 and the beginning of September 1939, 10,000 children aged from three months to 17 years were brought from Germany, Austria, the former Czechoslovakia, and Poland to Great Britain. This was the only country that allowed the children to enter. The children were informed of their departure only shortly before to make the farewell less difficult. They were allowed to take only one suitcase and one piece of hand luggage on their journey by train and ship. Only children for whom a security of 50 English pounds was guaranteed could emigrate.

The young children often did not understand the circumstances of their journey and believed they were being abandoned by their parents. The older youths worried about their families left behind, as they saw the impending danger very clearly. After the end of the war in 1945, many children stayed with their foster families, having lost their family and relatives through the extermination of the Jewish population in Europe.

Heidi – The Book

1. Find the picture where you can see the book "Heidi" and list all the items in the suitcase.

All these items belonged to Helga Bellanger. She grew up in the countryside near Salzburg. At the age of seven or eight, her aunt took her to Vienna. Helga remembers playing with her cousin's dolls and going to the city park. At the age of nine, she traveled to England on a children's transport. Here in the picture, you can see her small Viennese souvenirs, as she called them.

2. When you look at these items, what do they tell you about Helga? Write it down here.

The book "Pummelchen" was a very popular book series for girls of Helga's age in Vienna at that time.

3. Which book would you definitely want to keep to have in 50 years?

In my suitcase is...

Go to the picture board of Josi Knight (born as Josi Eberstarkova) and look closely at the items. These are Josi's mother's handbag, a floral dress with a round collar that Josi's mother sewed for her, and the kitchen apron of her mother, which she took off and put in the suitcase at the last moment before it was closed for the journey to England. The apron is a symbol of 15-year-old Josi's responsibility for her younger siblings who traveled with her to Great Britain.

Take your time and think carefully about what item your parents would put in your suitcase knowing that you might never meet again. Write it down here.

A photo that remains

1. Choose a picture board in the exhibit that personally interests you. Photograph it with your phone (or sketch it in the frame) and answer the following questions about it. You can print out the photo later and paste it here.

What on this picture board drew you to it? Describe it in 1-2 sentences.

What connection do you find in this picture board to yourself? It can be an item or the text.

-
-
2. Find a classmate and present your picture boards to each other. Here are some prompt questions:
 - What is visible in the suitcase? Compare the contents.
 - What can you tell about the child?
 - How did you answer the questions about the picture board?

Only one thing remained...

1. Go to a picture board with only one or two items and read whom they belonged to. Write down the item, the name, and age of the child, and the German text under the picture here.

2. Now, in your mind, place one or two items in the suitcase that you would want to give to the child. Write them down and note why you selected these items for this child.

3. Each child was allowed to take only one suitcase, one piece of hand luggage, and ten Reichsmarks. They were informed of their departure only shortly before and no one was allowed to say goodbye on the platform.

Why was this not allowed? Write your thoughts here.

The Rescuers

The children's transports were a rescue operation in which many organizations and individuals of various faiths worked together.

One of them was Nicholas Winton, a 29-year-old Londoner who spent two weeks in Prague (then Czechoslovakia) at the end of 1938. In this short time, he managed to set up an organization for the Czech children's transports. In Great Britain, he sought donors for transport costs and foster families. For each child, a guarantee of 50 pounds was required. That was roughly 1500 euros at that time. In nine months, he managed to bring 669 children in eight trains from Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Austria to Great Britain. He was knighted in 2003 and celebrated his 105th birthday this year!

1. What reasons do you think Nicholas Winton had to help the children?

Perhaps one child's story particularly stuck with you. Write or draw a wish for this child and pin it on the board in the exhibit. Thank you!

My wish for you dear _____