

# Worksheet - Kristallnacht

## First Video – Transcript

[https://youtu.be/0\\_TfEsrMn0o?si=2zVKhdUHbgP5aBdL](https://youtu.be/0_TfEsrMn0o?si=2zVKhdUHbgP5aBdL)

“My dear new friends, my name is Eddie Jaku, and I am standing in front of you today, a survivor of the Holocaust and a witness of the most tragic times in the history of mankind. I was a proud young German. I thought this was the best civilisation that could be given to a young man like me. How wrong I was. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 1938, I returned from boarding school where I had lived under a false name for five years because I was a Jew. I lived away from my family like an orphan, getting an education and under enormous pressure and fear that somebody could find out that I was not Walter Shleif, who I pretended to be. I was in great danger. On that fateful night I had arrived home but my family had gone in hiding and I was alone. I went to bed with my dog close by. At 5am on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 1938, ten Nazis broke down the door of our house and what they did to me I am ashamed to tell you. It was so bad that I believed “Eddie, you are going to die today.” After they made me witness the demolishing of our 200 year old house, and murdering my beloved dog, Lulu, who had tried to protect me, in front of my eyes.

I lost my dignity, my freedom and my faith in humanity. I lost everything I lived for. I was reduced from a man to being nothing. What happened to my country where I was born in? The country of my ancestors? The country the produced Schiele, Goethe, Beethoven and Mozart.\* What had happened to my German friends, who became murderers? At the time, none of us understood that Kristallnacht, the night of the broken glass, when the fronts of Jewish-owned shops were smashed, and the shops looted, and homes and synagogues were set on fire, was only the beginning of the nightmare of much, much worse to come. That day, I was transported to my first concentration camp, Buchenwald, where I was kept with another 11,000 Jewish men for about 5 months.”

\* Schiele was a painter; Goethe was a writer, philosopher, botanist and anatomist; Beethoven and Mozart were composers.

## Questions:

1. Why was Eddie living under a false name at boarding school? What does this reveal about Germany before Kristallnacht?
2. What did the Nazis do at Eddie’s house on Kristallnacht?
3. What did Eddie lose on Kristallnacht?
4. Why does Eddie say that Kristallnacht was ‘only the beginning of the nightmare’?

## Second Video – Transcript

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scCvi3vY4jQ> Watch up to 3mins 24secs.

“I think we never should forget Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht was the most crucial, the most brutal destruction of community in Germany which was supposed to be high class, educated, civilised... Hitler wanted to show the world what he is going to do with the German Jews, and the world stood still. And if we forget, we are traitors to the 6 million Jews. If the world would have acted, after Kristallnacht, that wouldn't happen, maybe the Holocaust wouldn't happen. So now the living people have to do this – and it is not much to ask to remember, to commemorate, and to try not to let this happen again.

What happened to me at Kristallnacht, I lost my faith, I lost my confidence in humanity, I lost my name, and nearly lost my life, and that is important. So if the people who like me, and like the people who are not here any more, we have to remember. And for sure the young people, they are young, they grow up, not to look the other way and say ‘that happened a long time ago’. If it happened in Germany it can happen anywhere. This is my message.”

## Questions

1. According to Eddie, what was Hitler's motivation for Kristallnacht?
2. Why does Eddie consider it is important to keep learning about Kristallnacht?