Voices That Remain

Why survivor testimony matters across generations

TOT.C.11.2 "Explain why it is important for current and future generations to learn from the Shoah through eye-witness accounts and survivors' testimony."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the example of a survivor's experience. Underline three different reasons that people today or in the future should learn from testimony, then number those reasons 1, 2, and 3.

What a Witness Can Tell Us

1. At a museum listening station, a visitor hears a survivor describe the Shoah. One documented account comes from Elie Wiesel, a Jewish survivor. In his memoir *Night*, Wiesel recalls arriving at Auschwitz as a teenager and being separated from his mother and youngest sister. He stayed with his father, but he never saw his mother or sister again. The Nazis and their collaborators murdered about six million Jews during the Shoah. That number names the scale of the crime; Wiesel's account shows what one family's separation meant to a person who lived through it.

2. Testimony does more than add emotion to a list of dates. A survivor can describe what people saw, feared, and did when persecution became part of daily life. Such details help listeners recognize that Nazi policies were carried out through human choices, not by a force that could not be stopped. Hearing a survivor speak can push people today to question antisemitic claims and notice when neighbors are treated as less than human. Yet no single account tells the whole history. Survivors had different experiences, and many people who were murdered left no testimony.

3. As survivors grow older and die, recorded interviews and written memories let future generations encounter their words. Keeping those accounts available matters because future students cannot ask every witness what happened. They can compare testimonies with one another and with documents, such as Nazi records, to understand both personal experience and the wider history. A recording cannot answer every question, and memory may leave out details. Still, a witness's own account preserves a perspective that an official record may not capture. Learning from it can help future listeners respond thoughtfully when they encounter hatred or denial.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does Wiesel's account help a reader understand something the number six million cannot show on its own?

2. According to the passage, how can listening to survivors affect choices people make today?

3. Why is preserving recorded interviews important for future generations?

4. Why should students compare testimony with other accounts and documents rather than rely on one witness alone?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum plans to remove its survivor listening station because its display already gives dates and numbers. Write a 75 to 100 word recommendation explaining whether the station should stay. Use one detail from the passage, suggest one specific action visitors could take after listening, and acknowledge a limit of testimony.

Voices That Remain

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the example of a survivor's experience. Underline three different reasons that people today or in the future should learn from testimony, then number those reasons 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Wiesel's account help a reader understand something the number six million cannot show on its own?	**His account shows the personal loss behind the number through his separation from his mother and youngest sister.**
2	According to the passage, how can listening to survivors affect choices people make today?	**It can lead people to question antisemitic claims and notice when others are treated as less than human.**
3	Why is preserving recorded interviews important for future generations?	**Future students will not be able to ask every survivor what happened, but recordings let them encounter survivors' own words.**
4	Why should students compare testimony with other accounts and documents rather than rely on one witness alone?	**One witness cannot describe every experience, and memory may leave out details. Comparing sources helps students understand both personal experiences and the wider history.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Keep the listening station. Dates and numbers show the scale of the Shoah, but Wiesel's account of being separated from his mother and youngest sister helps visitors understand a family's loss. After listening, visitors could examine a second survivor account and discuss how both witnesses describe the effects of Nazi persecution. The station should not present one person's memory as the complete history. Pairing testimony with other accounts and documents would help visitors learn from a witness while asking careful questions about what each source can tell them.

Accept other passage-based explanations that connect testimony to its importance for current or future generations. For the recommendation, look for a specific action, a relevant passage detail, and a clear acknowledgment that one account is not the whole history.