



## *Emil and Karl* Yankev Glashteyn

Recommend Reading Age:

S1-S3

Hindsight has always been a fundamental tool in allowing successful and meaningful Holocaust education to occur in the classroom. *Emil and Karl* exudes conversation starters, analysis of perpetrators, victims and essential empathy skills through the stories delicate handling of subject matter. By allowing the reader to question the repercussions facing Emil and Karl in 1938, the author permits the reader to use the gift of hindsight to answer the often used rhetorical questions embedded in the story: *"His father died a hero, he knew that too, but what's a hero?"* I recommend to any teaching professional to avoid any details regarding the publication date or leaking any details of the story as this may have detrimental impact when exploring the uncertainty of the character's development.

Particular reference must be made to the ruptured relationship between pupil and teacher which we see in Chapter 2. Every reader can reflect on the bond between teacher and pupil which we see crushed and broken due to the development of Anschluss strength in the story. The reader divulges into confliction between word and action due to primary teacher's response to the children's bullying of Karl and Emil. I look to embed this scenario within my own Holocaust education practice to perpetuate pupil understanding and reflection of victim's conflictions and experiences along with several other key moments in the story.

Miss Teasdale's Rating:

