

Extract from Holocaust Assessment

When I went to the Imperial War Museum in London I selected five different items that touched me or made me feel a particular emotion of the item and the people related to it. All these items are related to the Holocaust. Most of the time in this assessment I have used the word 'Shoah' which is a more preferred word used by many people to show politeness for certain people who are emotional about the experiences of the Holocaust...

... the third item that I selected was a small children's book that was very racist to Jews. The book I saw at the Imperial War museum was a small thin book with a green cover. The title and the writing were in German but there was a cartoon of a mushroom with a face. It had a Star of David across its chest. From not knowing much of the book I could tell from the start it was about hating Jews. This was very relevant to the Shoah as this helped many children grow up to hate the Jews and become Nazis. The book is slightly tattered so it looks like it has been used quite a lot. If lots of children read this then lots of them would of show much hatred to Jews. They possibly could have joined the Nazis. I think the book was not valued much by any of the children because it was a school library book and not any of the children's. Although, I can guess that many teachers used this book for demonstrations about Jews so the teachers would value it more than the children. This is scary that teachers would help to make children hate others. I think this would challenge our values of today because not many people value books as they are so easily accessible apart from biographies and possibly books on history, religion or science. Our society has changed in the light of the Shoah because it is illegal to write book that are racist as many would start to be racist. The book could be just a historical item to show how some books could be so cruel and to make people realise how wrong it was so books like that are not published again. In our children's books it teaches us good things like that we should be kind to different people and not nasty. This is like in the Harry Potter books when we learn that muggle born characters (people whose parents are not wizards) should be treated the same as pure bloods throughout the story. This is really good because the books that we read help us to learn and it is where we get our morals from.

To summarise my third item was a children's German schoolbook that encouraged those who read it, to hate Jews. It looked as if it had been used a lot so this would of helped many children to hate Jews and possibly become Nazis. It would have been used in demonstrations in their special race lessons. It would challenge our values because many people don't value books like this. Our society has changed because there are laws against racism and influencing it. The book is really a historical item to put us off reading or writing books like this particular one. Some people though are still racist and they tell their children similar things as this book does this is really scary because the children will believe their Mum and Dad and will grow up racist.