

Modern European History

Unit 9 – WWII

Schindler's List Movie Questions

It's September, 1939. General Sigmund List's armored divisions, driving north from the Sudetenland, have taken Cracow, Poland and now, in this club, drinking, socializing, conducting business, is a strange clientele: SS officers and Polish cops, gangsters and girls and entrepreneurs, thrown together by the circumstance of war.

1. Why does Oskar Schindler buy the NAZI soldiers dinner and drinks?

2. Why does Schindler want to buy the enamelware company that Itzhak Stern used to do the books for?

3. How does he get the money to buy it?

4. Why does Schindler prefer to hire Jews to work in his factory (rather than Poles)?

5. A Blauschein is a blue sticker that shows someone is an “essential worker.” How does the teacher get his Blauschein?

6. Describe the arrival, and swift departure, of Mrs. Schindler.
7. Why is Schindler so shaken when Mr. Lowenstein thanks him for his job?
8. Was Schindler's concern about the workers shoveling snow financial or emotional?
9. Why is Schindler awoken early one morning and rushed to the train station?
10. What items were amassed at the train station? Why were they there?
11. Explain this quote by Amon Goeth: "*For six centuries, there has been a Jewish Cracow. By this weekend, those six centuries, are a rumor. They never happened. Today is history.*"

12. What was the significance of the “figure in red?”
13. How does Schindler ensure that his workers will be at work each day?
14. What happens to the man making hinges?
15. Describe the “stolen chicken” scene. What happens to the boy?
16. Why does Schindler get angry when the girl tells him that “everyone knows” that he is good?
17. What effect does Schindler’s “pardoning” discussion have on Goeth’s behavior?

18. What is the activity at the camp that causes the girls to put blood on their cheeks?
19. What happens to the children?
20. Why does Schindler bring fire hoses from the DEF (his factory)?
21. Why was Schindler arrested?
22. Where do we see “the figure in red” again?
23. Explain the significance of the following conversation between Schindler and Goeth:
Schindler: All you have to do is tell me what it's worth to you. What's a person worth to you.
Goeth: What's one worth to you? That's the question.

24. The men's train arrives in Zwittau-Brinnlitz, Czechoslovakia, Schindler's hometown, ahead of the women. Where does their train go? What happens to them there?
25. Explain this quote from Schindler: "Stern, if this factory ever produces a shell that can actually be fired... I'll be very unhappy."
26. What sacrifice does Mr. Yaref make? What is made from "his sacrifice?" (*hint* 'Whoever saves one life, saves the world.')
27. What is the purpose of the letter the workers give to Schindler?
28. What happened to Amon Goeth?
29. What was the most moving scene of the film for you? Why?



Chronology

April 28, 1908	Oskar Schindler is born in present-day Czechoslovakia
1914-1918	World War I; Czechoslovakia is established November 1918
1927	Schindler marries Emilie after a six week courtship
1935	Schindler family business goes bankrupt; father abandons mother
September 1938	Munich Conference, Sudetenland ceded to Nazi Germany
September 1, 1939	Nazi Germany invades Poland
September 17, 1939	Soviet Union invades Poland; Poland partitioned between Nazi Germany and Soviet Union
October 26, 1939	Krakow becomes capital of German-occupied Poland, the so-called General Government
November 10, 1939	Krakow Jews forced to wear blue-white armband with Star of David
December 1939	Schindler purchases enamel factory
March 20, 1941	Germans establish ghetto in suburb of Krakow
June 1942	Germans begin construction of labor camp at Plaszow
June 2, 1942	First deportations of Jews from Krakow to Belzec death camp
October 28, 1942	Second wave of deportations to Belzec
March 13, 1943	Final liquidation of ghetto
September 1944	Schindler's factory is closed; Schindlerjuden are taken to Plaszow
October 1944	Schindler prepares "list" of Jews he takes to Brunnitz, Czechoslovakia
November 1944	Schindler rescues Jewish women from Auschwitz-Birkenau
May 8, 1945	Second World War ends; Brunnitz camp liberated following day
April 28, 1962	Schindler named Righteous Gentile by Yad Vashem
October 9, 1974	Schindler dies in Frankfurt, West Germany; buried in Israel