



Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski and Remember This

Stage Play and Movie About a WWII Hero of the Polish Underground, Holocaust Witness, and Georgetown University Professor, Jan Karski

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which of Karski's character traits and moral principles do you think were shaped by his upbringing, and which ones by environment or historical and social circumstances?
2. Has the movie in any way changed your perception of WWII, Holocaust, or the Polish and American response to the Jewish tragedy?
3. Why do you think Karski stayed silent about his wartime experience for so many years after the war?
4. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter said he did not believe Karski's account. What are the implications of this conversation?
5. Why do you think that President Roosevelt didn't inquire about the so-called "Jewish problem" during his conversation with Karski?
6. One of Karski's most powerful messages is: "Governments have no souls. They have only their interests in mind. Individuals have souls." Can this principle help us today in our strife to make this world a better place?
7. Another memorable saying of Karski's is, "Human beings have an infinite capacity to ignore things that are not convenient." Are we then doomed to fail?
8. What responsibility should we feel towards other human beings who are harmed or suffer injustice? How can we translate this into action?
9. The playwrights' idea was to set the story in the classroom and have the actor speak directly to the audience. Did it work for you? (Do you think it helped or hindered the movie's message?)
10. How did you like the concept of the actor playing different characters, such as the interviewer and interviewee or the victim and the perpetrator?

RESOURCES

1. Jan Karski Educational Foundation's website www.jankarski.net
 - Karski's Biography, Interviews, and Speeches
 - Articles about Karski and extensive Bibliography
 - [For educators](#): Educational Packet, Classroom Discussion Questions & Lesson Plans
 - [Special section](#) for the film *Remember This* and the play *Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski*
2. Jan Karski's wartime memoir, [Story of a Secret State](#) (available on Georgetown University Press with a discount code from the JKEF website or on Amazon.com)
3. The graphic novel, [Karski's Mission: To Stop the Holocaust](#) by Rafael Medoff and Dean Motter (order directly from JKEF – see contact info below)
4. Karski's biography by E. Thomas Wood and Stanislaw M. Jankowski, [Karski: How One Man Tried to Stop the Holocaust](#)
5. Script of the play [Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski](#) (available on Amazon.com)
6. Documentary [Karski & The Lords of Humanity](#) by an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Slawomir Grunberg,
7. [Why? Explaining the Holocaust](#), Peter Hayes
8. Facebook Page: [Jan Karski Educational Foundation](#)
9. Facebook Group: [Jan Karski Campaign Supporters](#)
10. Twitter: [@JanKarskiStory](#)
11. Karski's testimony featured in the documentary *Shoah*. On YouTube, search: "[Jan Karski's emotional testimony](#)."
12. Sign up for the movie updates at its official website: www.rememberthiskarskifilm.com

Contact info@jankarski.net for more information.