

# **So What Really Happened?**

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# Essential Questions

1. How do people, places, and/or things evoke memories?
2. How do different people form different memories about a single person, place, thing, or event?
3. How did people, places, things, and events play significant roles in the experiences of individuals during the Holocaust?

# Lesson Plan

# Lesson Opener Questions:

- What shapes memory?
- Why might you remember one thing and not another?
- Why might you think something is important at the time, but less important later (and/or vice versa- not important at the time, but very important later)?
- Why might you remember something differently from the way you remembered it when it happened?
- If we want to remember something in a special moment, what do we do to ensure that we can do so?

*NOTE: teacher may provide a concrete example to the students in order to further ground their thinking.*

# Students' Memories

**Provide students with one of the following and ask them to write a reflective piece about a memory it evokes. Then SHARE!!!!**

- a. An object (example: baseball, a ring/other jewelry, suitcase, shoe, toy, etc.)
- b. A sound/music clip (example: the sound of a train, the sound of an announcement, dogs barking, etc.)
- c. A smell (eucalyptus, mint, cinnamon, pine tree, etc.)

# What Does This Have to Do With Centropa?...

“Stories are universal”-  
Ed Serotta



# ...But remember, Ed, memories are not...

## *Read 3-4 Contradictory Narrative Excerpts*

“I didn’t want to leave Cracow. With the child, the nurse, and my little case, which I have to this day, and in that one dress, Father put me in the carriage and sent me off to Jaroslaw with Giza.” --

**Emilia Leibel (Cracow, Poland)**

“**I have very fond memories of our stay with them.** [...] I took a liking to them and said: 'Here we'll stay.' And truly in the end this beautiful lifelong friendship was born.” --

**Milena Prochazkova (Prague, Czech Republic)**

“Noise, screams, no idea what was going to happen.”

**Julian Gringas (Warsaw, Poland)**

# Jigsaw with Chart

Name of Speaker	What is this particular memory about (less than 1 sentence)?	In your opinion, what stands about this person's memory?
1.		
2.		



# Exit Ticket & Discussion

- What are the similarities between the narratives?
- What are the differences between the narratives?
- Why can't there be one objective/universal memory of a person, place, thing, or event?
- Why might this knowledge be important when looking at life/history/stories?