



Post-War Germany

But the Mennonites found their state was no better in Germany. After the war, Germany was split into four military zones. Great Britain, France, and the United States controlled three of these zones. The fourth zone was controlled by Russia and was communist.

Most of the Mennonites found themselves in the Russian zone. Not only were they refugees far from home, but they now lived under the control of the Russians they had tried to escape. They lived in constant fear lest the Russians should discover who they really were and send them back to Russia and exile.



Germany divided into four zones after the war.

But Not Forsaken

But Not Forsaken is the story of one Mennonite refugee family. The author, Helen Good Brenneman, served at a refugee camp in Germany after the war. There she learned of the experiences of Russian Mennonites during their flight from communist Russia. Although *But Not Forsaken* is fiction, it relates many real-life incidents.

A Write *true* if the statement is *true* or *false* if it is *false*.

- _____ Germany was split into four military zones.
- _____ Communism allowed religious freedom.
- _____ Helen Good Brenneman was a Russian Mennonite refugee.
- _____ Berlin was in the Russian-controlled part of Germany.
- _____ The Russian Mennonites left their homes several times due to persecution.

B Complete each exercise.

- List the countries that controlled Germany after World War II.

- Define *historical fiction*.

**C Complete the sentence.**

8. The story takes place in post-war _____.

D Read the poem “The Refugee,” the Preface, and the Introduction (pages v, xi-xiv).**E Answer the question.**

9. What is the author’s hope for her readers? _____

F Write *true* if the statement is *true* or *false* if it is *false*.

10. _____ If we have not personally experienced suffering, it can be difficult for us to identify with the hardships that refugees endure.



Life in Krauter

The story begins with the Penner family eating their scant meal. For the Penners, hardships have become a way of life. But during their long trek from communist Russia, Maria found a deep faith in God and refused to allow anyone to take that away from her. Hans, Maria's husband, did not share that faith; he could not believe that a loving God would allow such suffering.

As you read, you will come across some German words. Look in the glossary of German words on page 58 of this LightUnit to find their meanings and pronunciations.

A Read Chapter 1 (pages 1-9).

B Write the name of each character beside the correct description.

Anni Friesen	Maria Penner	Hansie Penner	Rosie Penner
Hans Penner	Frau Schmidt	Lenie Penner	

1. _____ father of the home
2. _____ Christian woman who had a Bible
3. _____ baby that was sick
4. _____ son who was teased at school
5. _____ neighbor and friend
6. _____ daughter who often had nightmares
7. _____ mother of the home

C Describe the places the Penners have lived.

8. home in Poland _____
9. first home in East Germany _____
10. their present home _____

**D Complete the sentence.**

11. Although Hans and Maria did not agree on spiritual matters, they did not _____ in front of the children.

Foreshadowing

When you look at the sky and see heavy gray clouds, you suspect that snow may be on the way. When you read, you can do the same kind of guessing. Writers often give you small clues that hint at something that will happen later in the story. This technique is called *foreshadowing*.

We find two examples of foreshadowing in the chapter you have just read. The first comes when we see Tante Anni acting unlike herself, full of fear and dread.

E Find the two paragraphs near the end of Chapter 1 (pp. 7-9) that contain foreshadowing. Write the first and last words of each.

12. _____
13. _____

F Read Chapters 2 and 3 (pages 11-25).**G Write *true* if the statement is *true* or *false* if it is *false*.**

14. _____ Anni Friesen had bumped into a German soldier.
15. _____ Hans readily accepted the faith of his ancestors.
16. _____ Life as refugees was difficult but bearable.
17. _____ Anni's husband Gerhardt had been *verschleppt*.
18. _____ The refugees constantly feared they would be sent back to Russia.



H Answer each question.

19. Why was there a bundle always packed?

20. What was the *main* reason for Hans's bitterness and anger? Circle the letter of the answer.

a. He had seen so much sorrow and suffering during the war that it made him angry.

b. He was angry that a supposedly loving God had let such terrible things happen.

c. He was angry because of all that his people, the Mennonites, had suffered through the years.

21. Why did Maria hesitate to let Hans take Lenie to the hospital?

22. Why was Maria's request that they all go along to the hospital "ridiculously impossible"?

☐ 23. Do you think Lenie will get well? Why or why not?

Flashback

Writers often use another technique called *flashback*. A flashback is just what it sounds like—it flashes back to an earlier scene. In a flashback, the writer briefly interrupts the story to tell about something that happened before the story began.

The flashback in Chapter 2 tells some of the history of the Russian Mennonites, including how they came to be in Germany.

I Complete each statement.

24. The Mennonites, who had been invited to Russia by _____, had first fled from _____ to _____ because of _____.

25. The Russian Mennonites were of _____ descent and the German dialect they spoke was _____.

26. After the _____ Revolution, well-to-do Mennonite farmers were *verschleppt* to _____.



27. Because they kept their German culture, many were evacuated beyond the _____ before the German army invaded _____.

- ☐ **J** Copy two things Maria said in Chapter 3 that show she kept her faith and trust in God in spite of the difficult circumstances she faced.

28. _____



A Read Chapter 4 (pages 27-31.)

Separation

Seeing events in proper sequence is important for understanding a story. The main events that took place in Chapter 3 and those that will happen in the next few chapters are responsible for what the Penners will face in the remainder of the book.

B Number these events in order.

1. a. ____ A loud commotion is heard in the next room.
- b. ____ Maria cries while making plans for the morning.
- c. ____ Hans takes Lenie to the hospital.
- d. ____ Lenie becomes more sick.
- e. ____ Maria and the children successfully flee into the night.
- f. ____ Anni Friesen runs into a Russian soldier.

C Write *true* if the statement is *true* or *false* if it is *false*.

2. _____ Anni told Maria that a Mennonite family had disappeared in the night.
3. _____ Maria and her children were caught trying to escape.
4. _____ Hansie had thought ahead to grab his and Rosie's book bags.

Again the author uses flashback to relate more of the reasons for the hardships the Penners faced and the fears they lived with.

D Complete each statement.

5. The Penners, along with thousands of others, fled Russia and went first to _____, which was at that time occupied by the _____.
6. The refugees thought _____ would be better than _____.
7. Hans had been forced into the _____ army. Maria and her children continued to head _____. It was a miracle that they had been reunited.