**Reading Journal #2 Due: Monday, Nov. 5th**

Question - Reading Strategy

Good readers ask questions while reading. Questions are the heart of understanding what we read. While you are reading keep track of any questions you have (use post-its or your Readers Notebook).

Choose one of the questions you asked \*(from either “The Cage” or a personal novel).

State your question? What can you do to answer it? Try to answer the question you asked, or make predictions as to what you think the answer may be and explain. **Connect your explanation to deeper thinking** on your novel. Use evidence from the text, and support your thinking with reasons and why, connections and opinions.

Reading Journal #2 Oct. 23rd

Ruth Minsky-Sender

“The Cage”

Why would the Nazi officers force the Jews to wear the Star of David on their clothing? Through prior knowledge, I know that the answer to this question is simple, yet horrifying. Torment, torture and humiliation. The Nazi’s used every chance they had to embarrass and degrade the Jews. Throughout Sender’s novel, I’ve read about Jews being chased in circles, forced to walk in gutters and having a curfew. Children weren’t permitted to attend school and food rations were minimal. The Germans were trying to take away the Jews lives; their pride, health, self-esteem and culture. Trying to force a feeling of shame was common practice during the Holocaust.

The Star of David, which is a symbol of love and pride was being twisted and used to point out Jews to be ridiculed, abused and easily identifiable for the purposes of deportation. This follows the Nazi plan of making the lives of innocent Jews horrendous.

 I’ve also read the novel “Milkweed” by Jerry Spinelli. Chapter thirteen describes a Jew that is stripped of his clothing, sprayed with ice water and choked with ropes around his neck as not to run from the freezing water. He is of coarse innocent of what the Nazi’s accuse him of and I see no purpose in their disgusting cruelty except for further humiliation.

 Taking a peaceful, religious symbol is yet another method of acting out Hitler’s plan. But that plan was not fully fulfilled. Thank God. Thank the Allies. And now, what a wonderful sight when I have a fountain pop with my good friend Maya, to see her shimmering, gold Star of David shining against her skin.