Reading Journal #1 Mentor Text September

The Cage

Ruth Minsky-Sender

Through reading Ruth Minsky-Sender’s, **The Cage**, I have been able to really visualize what was happening to the Jewish people. On page 34 she writes “From his lips blood silently flows over his bony chin and forms one big black spot on the wooden floor“. Where the floor is wooden, I can imagine the blood seeping into the grains and the black spot almost looks in my mind like a large ink blot that is spreading. Spreading over the floor and taking over just like the Germans soldiers were taking over the Jewish lives. Bones are angular to begin with but when people are starving a “bony chin” would be very pointed and almost sharp looking. This really reinforces the mental image of how thin the people of the Lodz ghetto were. Ruth also describes them as human skeletons throughout the book which adds to my vivid mental image.

With these visualizations, I can only predict that there will be more death and destruction ahead. Because it is a piece of non-fiction we know as readers that six million Jews were murdered and that most of Riva’s family will die with them. However, not all is lost. She lives to tell her story and I predict that there will be kindnesses and heroic events to come.