

READING TEXT pg 133-134 Students' book

The “sunken library” When you stroll across Bebelplatz in Berlin’s Mitte district, you often come across people staring at the same spot on the ground. When you get closer, you see a glass plate set in the paving stones, and below it an underground room with empty bookshelves.

The memorial shows what is missing.

Underground, almost out of sight, no books, empty white shelves, directly under Bebelplatz.

What was lost and burnt were the books by those who the Nazis ostracized and persecuted, who had to leave the country and whose stories were no longer allowed to be told.

In the middle of this square on 10 May 1933, Nazi students burnt the works of hundreds of independent authors, journalists, philosophers and academics.

The Memorial The memorial entitled “Library” is located between the State Opera, St Hedwig's Cathedral and buildings of the Humboldt University. It was designed by Israeli artist Micha Ullman.

The initiative to build a memorial to the book burnings came about in the Berlin Senate shortly after German reunification. It consists of a two-by-two meter large space below ground level on Bebelplatz, which can be viewed through a glass top. The walls are painted white, while empty book shelves symbolise the cultural loss caused by the National Socialist dictatorship. Symbolically, the underground bookshelves have space for around 20,000 books, as a reminder of the 20,000 books that went up in flames here on 10 May 1933 at the behest of the Nazis. The library memorial was unveiled on 20 March 1995.

Two bronze plates also set in the ground contain information and an inscription with the warning: That was but a prelude; where they burn books, they will ultimately burn people as well.

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What refined logical conclusion can be drawn regarding the actions of the Nazi students in the text?

- A) The Nazi students burned books as a form of protest against the government.
- B) The Nazi students burned books to create space for new ones.
- C) The Nazi students intentionally destroyed books to suppress certain voices and ideas.
- D) The Nazi students accidentally set fire to the books while conducting an experiment.

Answer: C) The Nazi students intentionally destroyed books to suppress certain voices and ideas.

2. What insights can be gleaned about the cultural backdrop influencing the book burnings as depicted in the text?

- A) The book burnings were a celebration of German literature and culture.
- B) The book burnings were a response to an increase in book production during that time.
- C) The book burnings were a result of the Nazis' efforts to control information and suppress dissent.
- D) The book burnings were a spontaneous act of vandalism by Nazi students.

Answer: C) The book burnings were a result of the Nazis' efforts to control information and suppress dissent.

3. How does the event of the book burnings depicted in the text serve as a manifestation of the overarching theme?

- A) The book burnings demonstrate the power of art and memorialization in confronting historical atrocities.
- B) The book burnings symbolize the suppression of intellectual freedom and the persecution of certain groups.
- C) The book burnings highlight the importance of preserving cultural heritage and knowledge.
- D) The book burnings represent a turning point in German history and the rise of Nazi ideology.

Answer: *B) The book burnings symbolize the suppression of intellectual freedom and the persecution of certain groups.*

4. What deductions can be made about the underlying motivations driving the actions or beliefs of the Nazi students as depicted in the text?

- A) The Nazi students intentionally destroyed books to suppress certain voices and ideas.
- B) The Nazi students accidentally set fire to the books while conducting an experiment.
- C) The Nazi students burned books to create space for new ones.
- D) The Nazi students burned books as a form of protest against the government.

Answer: *D) The Nazi students burned books as a form of protest against the government.*

5. In what ways does the author strategically employ the glass top in the memorial to bolster their argument within the text?

- A) The glass top provides a physical barrier between the viewer and the underground room, symbolizing the separation between past and present.
- B) The glass top reflects the sunlight, creating a visual contrast with the dark underground room and drawing attention to the memorial.
- C) The glass top allows viewers to see the empty bookshelves below, emphasizing the cultural loss caused by the book burnings.
- D) The glass top serves as a metaphor for transparency and accountability, highlighting the need to remember and learn from history.

Answer: *A) The glass top provides a physical barrier between the viewer and the underground room, symbolizing the separation between past and present.*

6. What conclusions can be drawn about the nuanced relationship between cultural loss and the National Socialist dictatorship, as elucidated in the text?

- A) Cultural loss was a temporary setback that was eventually overcome through the rebuilding of libraries and the promotion of new authors.
- B) Cultural loss was a deliberate strategy employed by the National Socialist dictatorship to control information and suppress dissent.
- C) Cultural loss was an unintended consequence of the book burnings, as the Nazis did not anticipate the impact on future generations.
- D) Cultural loss was a direct result of the National Socialist dictatorship's efforts to promote independent authors and intellectuals.

Answer: *D) Cultural loss was a direct result of the National Socialist dictatorship's efforts to promote independent authors and intellectuals.*

7. How does the memorial entitled 'Library' symbolize the cultural loss caused by the book burnings?

- A) The memorial features empty bookshelves to represent the books that were lost and burnt.
- B) The memorial displays a glass top to separate the viewer from the underground room.
- C) The memorial is located between the State Opera, St Hedwig's Cathedral, and buildings of the Humboldt University.
- D) The memorial contains bronze plates with an inscription about burning books and people.

Answer: *A) The memorial features empty bookshelves to represent the books that were lost and burnt.*

8. What is the significance of the warning inscription on the bronze plates in the memorial?

- A) It highlights the need to remember and learn from history for transparency and accountability.
- B) It serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving cultural heritage and knowledge.
- C) It symbolizes the separation between past and present through the glass top of the memorial.
- D) It represents a turning point in German history and the rise of Nazi ideology.

Answer: *B) It serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving cultural heritage and knowledge..*

9. What is the purpose of the memorial entitled 'Library'?

- A) To serve as a meeting place for artists and scholars
- B) To commemorate the book burnings and symbolize the cultural loss

- C) To showcase the works of independent authors and intellectuals
- D) To promote transparency and accountability in society

Answer: *B) To commemorate the book burnings and symbolize the cultural loss*

10. How does the glass top in the memorial contribute to its overall message?

- A) By providing a physical barrier against vandalism
- B) By separating the viewer from the empty bookshelves below
- C) By reflecting the sunlight and drawing attention to the underground room
- D) By symbolizing the separation between past and present

Answer: *C) By reflecting the sunlight and drawing attention to the underground room*

11. What conclusion can be drawn about the impact of the book burnings on future generations?

- A) The book burnings caused a permanent loss of cultural heritage
- B) The book burnings led to the rise of new authors and intellectuals
- C) The book burnings had no lasting impact on future generations
- D) The book burnings resulted in a temporary setback that was eventually overcome

Answer: *C) The book burnings had no lasting impact on future generations*

12. Based on the information provided, what can be inferred about the significance of Bebelplatz in Berlin?

- A) Bebelplatz is home to the State Opera and St Hedwig's Cathedral
- B) Bebelplatz is the location where the book burnings took place

C) Bebelplatz is a popular meeting place for artists and scholars

D) Bebelplatz is known for its vibrant literary scene

Answer: *C) Bebelplatz is a popular meeting place for artists and scholars*

VOCABULARY

- stare at (verb), κοιτάζω επίμονα
Example Sentence: Agnes stared at the phone, willing it to ring.
- ostracize (verb) εξοστρακίζω
Example Sentence: She was ostracized by her classmates after the incident.
- persecute (verb) διώκω
Example Sentence: The religious minority was persecuted for their beliefs.
- initiative (noun) πρωτοβουλία
Example Sentence: The government launched an initiative to reduce unemployment rates.
- dictatorship (noun) δικατορία
Example Sentence: The country was ruled under a brutal dictatorship for decades.
- contain (verb) περιέχω
Example Sentence: The box contains two bottles.
- unveil (verb) αποκαλύπτω
Example Sentence: The artist unveiled his latest masterpiece at the gallery opening.
- memorial (noun) μνήμα προς τιμή κάποιου ανθρώπου ή γεγονότος
Example Sentence: The memorial was built to honor the victims of the war.
- symbolically (adverb) συμβολικά
Example Sentence: The dove is symbolically associated with peace.
- inscription (noun) επιγραφή
Example Sentence: The inscription on the statue commemorates the fallen soldiers.

- hostility (noun) εχθρότητα
Example Sentence: There was a lot of hostility between the rival gangs.
- strategy (noun) στρατηγική
Example Sentence: The company developed a new marketing strategy to increase sales.
- reunification (noun) επανένωση
Example Sentence: The reunification of the country brought hope for a better future.
- reminder= υπενθύμιση
Example Sentence: Edward hadn't paid his electricity bill, so his supplier sent him a reminder.
- brutal (adjective) βάνανσος/βάρβαρος
Example Sentence: The prisoners were subjected to brutal treatment in the prison camp.
- loss (noun) απώλεια
Example Sentence: The fans were upset at their team's loss.
- masterpiece (noun) αριστούργημα
Example Sentence: The painting is considered a masterpiece of Renaissance art.
- commemorate (verb) τιμώ τη μνήμη
Example Sentence: The monument was built to commemorate the fallen soldiers.
- aggressive (adjective) επιθετικός
Example Sentence: He displayed aggressive behavior during the argument.
- resilience (noun) ανθεκτικότητα
Example Sentence: Her resilience helped her overcome the challenges she faced.
- propaganda (noun) προπαγάνδα
Example Sentence: The government spread propaganda to manipulate public opinion.

- censorship (noun) λογοκρισία

Example Sentence: The regime imposed strict censorship on the media.

- oppression (noun) καταπίεση/ καταδυνάστευση

Example Sentence: The minority population suffered under the oppression of the ruling regime.

- heritage (noun) κληρονομιά

Example Sentence: She takes pride in her African heritage.

- resistance (noun) αντίσταση

Example Sentence: The resistance movement fought against the oppressive regime.

WRITING :

Printed books are better than e-books

In a world dominated by technology, it is no surprise that digital books, or e-books, have gained popularity. With the rise of devices like smartphones, tablets, and e-readers, it has become more convenient for people to access books digitally. However, despite their convenience, printed books still hold a special place in the hearts of readers.

One of the main advantages of printed books is the tangible experience they provide. Holding a physical book in one's hands, feeling the pages turn, and smelling the unique scent of ink and paper creates a sensory experience that cannot be replicated by e-books. There is a sense of authenticity and connection that comes with reading a printed book, allowing the reader to fully immerse themselves in the story. In contrast, e-books, while convenient, lack this tactile sensation and can feel impersonal.

Moreover, printed books allow for a more personal and customizable reading experience. With a printed book, readers can highlight, underline, and write notes

in the margins, marking their favorite passages or important points. These annotations not only help with understanding and retention but also serve as a testament to the reader's journey through the book. In contrast, e-books often limit the ability to annotate, and even if they do offer this feature, it is not as intuitive or satisfactory as physically marking a book. The act of physically interacting with a book can enhance the reading experience and make it more meaningful.

Additionally, printed books have a permanence that e-books lack. Digital files can be easily corrupted, lost, or become incompatible with future devices or software updates. This means that e-books are more susceptible to being lost or becoming inaccessible over time, whereas printed books can withstand the test of time. Furthermore, printed books can be passed down through generations, becoming cherished heirlooms and preserving family histories. In this way, books become more than just stories - they become cherished mementos, evoking memories and emotions.

While e-books have allowed for greater accessibility and convenience, they cannot replace the sensory experience, personalization, and permanence that printed books offer. Whether it be the weight of a hardcover on one's lap or the opening of a book to reveal a world waiting to be explored, printed books continue to hold a special place in our hearts, reminding us of the simple joys of reading. In an increasingly digitized world, let us not forget the beauty and importance of the printed book.

Reasons for replacing print books with electronic books

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accessed as soon as possible from an e-book instead of waiting for a print book to be delivered to the person .

There is easy upgrading and updating of an e-book, unlike a print book. In the current day, there is rapid changing of information. Books covering various subjects can easily get outdated and there is a need to update the information so that people accessing the information can be assisted in the best way possible. When it comes to updating and upgrading e-books, this can be carried out with a lot of ease and with speed. This is not the case with print books. Updating the print books takes more time and it may mean coming up with new editions which the reader has to purchase again.

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Electronic books have several advantages over print books. Therefore based on these advantages, e-books should replace print books. Among the reasons for replacing the print books with e-books are that the ebooks are easily updated and upgraded to avoid outdated information, they are more portable, they can be

obtained more quickly, they help in conserving the environment and also by using them, they use less space, and a person can easily and quickly obtain the information required from these kinds of books. These are advantages that can not be enjoyed when using print books.