

A Women's Greatest Sacrifice in History's Darkest Hour

An individual who exemplified altruism during the Holocaust would be Miep Gies. She risked her life to save many people, including the Frank family, her neighbor Mrs. Sampson, the Van Pels family and many more. She did all this because, despite what Hitler and his many followers believed, she knew that even though the Jewish people had a different religion and a differing perspective on their beliefs, these were people who breathed and loved just the same as you and I. To take their lives away from them was immoral.

Knowing that Otto Frank was a Jew did not affect the way she treated and respected him. She knew him as the man offering her a job when she dearly needed one. She noted that he was shy, but very much a gentleman. She had judged him from the inside out, and unlike Hitler and his Nazis, she had loved every bit of it. He provided her with what seemed like a third family, and helped her overcome the dilemma that her passport was incorrect and the Nazis had said she must move back to Vienna. They also stamped a large X on her passport to make it invalid. Mr. Frank came up with the idea of writing back to her birth parents for her birth certificate. The plan worked and Miep was able to marry Jan and stay in Holland.

That touched me. The way Miep was so giving with her life to protect his and his family. She attempted to save many Jews from ever having to go to concentration camps or labor camps, but unfortunately this was not to be. The families she hid in the Annex, the Frank family the Van Pels family, and Mr. Pfeffer, who regrettably, was betrayed. She also hid her neighbor's son, Karol van deer Hart, in her own home, because of some trouble he had gotten in with the Nazis. She helped provide all the people she was hiding food, and this was a very hard thing to do during these times. She would travel for miles on miles just for a few potatoes, and there was still the possibility of the Nazis or someone else coming and

taking these away, because the gathering of food this way was “illegal”.

So much love and generosity in these dark times came to Miep from people she knew nothing about. For example, the butcher, who provided Miep with edible meat, so she could feed those in which she hid. Also from the “Vegetable Man”, who never questioned Miep about why she needed extra produce. He even went out of his way to stop by the Annex with extra vegetables. She didn’t even know this kind man’s name, and he hers, but yet he still provided for them, knowing the penalties that would await him if he was caught. The way the many people came to Miep to help her reminds me of my soccer team. Without each other, we would be unable to score, resulting in a loss of the game. When a series of brilliant passes take place and a teammate of mine manages to kick the ball into the net, it’s remarkable. In the beginning of the season, many of us wanted to score before the season ended. In our second to last game, five of our thirteen players hadn’t yet done this. Everybody loves scoring, because of the adrenalin rush and how the crowd will roar with appreciation. Our teammates wanted to score; you could see it in their eyes. They had selflessly passed the ball to us during games so we would be able to score, and for the benefit of the team. We as a team, wanted to be able to give up our chance at scoring and moved back to defense so our teammates would be able to meet their individual goals.

One by one, each of the five none scoring players scored an awesome goal. We roared along with the crowd each and every time, and it felt great to watch us work together so our team could stand united. One girl, who had been one of the five yet to score, began tearing up after the game. When questioned as to what the matter was, she laughed and wiped the tears away quickly, and said that she was just so grateful to be on a team that was so helping and always there for each other. She made us all tear up after that comment.

Miep, though, was willing to give up her life so Frank and his family could live. I respect her for her courage, and her ability to be so selfless. We as a team had united to one, and look at the outcome. Everybody had achieved her season goal; we

had won, and had played as a whole. When Miep and her helpers had banded together, they managed to affect many lives, and although not all received their happy ending, they got to be protected under Miep's careful eye.

When 9/11 happened, the people of the United States took action and when Hurricane Katrina hit, we again, took control. We came together as one and supplied money, clothes, food, shelter, and our love towards those in need. Yet as these awful events passed, people began to forget how united we had been. Do we need to have another horrible event take place every time people forget what its like to act as one and help support one another? I want everybody to be able to band together as one all the time and help friends and family all the time. When we all unite together, that's when we will become the 'United' States of America.

Works Cited

Gies, Miep. Anne Frank Remembered. 1st ed. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1909.

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"Miep Gies." Scholastic.Com. 2008. 12 Feb. 2008

<<http://teacher.scholastic.com/frank/tscripts/miep.htm>>.

Reflection Sheet

- 1) Moral Courage to me is when a person in any situation will put themselves or their personal items at risk to help another, knowing their will be consequences, yet going on with helping this person all the same.**

- 2) For instance Miep Gies's story. Her ability of knowing that she could die any day for helping the Franks, yet she continued to do so day after day. The Nazis threatened all of those who were helping the Jews or any one else hide, and Miep heard this but continued on. How she could be so selfless, when they offered food, money, and better living, and in these situations, it would be easy to just give up for a better life. Her Courage is astounding, and many should look up to her as an inspiring role model.**

- 3) Living in a small city, we pretty much know everyone. We know when a family is in danger or needs help, the families in our town will come together and maybe have a party for them or bake a whole bunch of baked goods. We do it in such a way that the person will not know that they are only receiving these things through charity, but through the town's love. We have many town gatherings, such as Relay for Life, the cancer walking benefit, and we enjoy having parties in parks and main trying to include everyone we know while trying to meet new people. My town is a very nice town to live in and am proud at the way we unite together.**