

Schindler's List Viewing Guide

Name _____

Introductory Note: Schindler's List is a film directed by Steven Spielberg that tells the story of Oskar Schindler, a Germany businessman, who felt that it was more important to show compassion to the Jews in need than to maintain his personal financial fortune. Helping him do this is a Jew named Itzhak Stern, an accountant, who becomes Oskar's partner in saving the Jews, as well as a personal friend.

Most of the movie was filmed in black and white. After all, the mood of the Holocaust isn't exactly one filled with color. However, there is a small portion that includes the color red. As we watch and you see the color, think about the possible reasons why Spielberg would have chosen to use it.

Schindler's List was chosen as the Best Picture of the Year in 1993, and remains one of the most praised films of our time.

As you watch, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

****NOTE: Be sure that you are answering questions as we watch each day. If you are absent, you are still responsible for answering the questions. The film is available at the Scott County Public Library, on Netflix or you can schedule a time with me before or after school to watch what you missed.**

1. Why did so many Jews come to the city of Krakow from the Polish countryside?
2. In the first scenes in which Schindler appears, how are you SHOWN (not told) that he is a man who knows how to get what he wants?
3. Why does Schindler go to see Itzhak Stern, the Jewish accountant?
4. What does Schindler promise potential Jewish investors in return for their investment? Why would Jews be interested in investing in Schindler's project?
5. Why hire Jews instead of Poles? Who gets the salary earned by the Jewish workers? Why?
6. How does Stern rescue the university professor? What would have happened to him if he had not?
7. What does Schindler want the Jewish workers in his factory to make?
8. Earlier we saw Schindler getting his picture taken while partying with Nazi officers. We also saw him placing orders for luxury items (chocolate, cigars, etc.) How does he use these things to his advantage?
9. Who is the woman who arrives unannounced at Schindler's apartment door?
10. Schindler is proud that he has 350 workers. What does he see as their purpose initially?

11. Schindler thinks he will be remembered, and indeed he is, but it is not for what he predicts. For what does he think at this point he will be remembered for?

12. Emilie, Oskar's wife, says that _____ makes all the difference between success and failure. Oskar says it is _____.

13. Emilie says if she is to stay, it must be on one condition. What is her condition?

14. What decision does Emilie make? What does this say about the relationship between husband and wife? What does it say about Oskar's character?

15. What happens to the one-armed man? Why?

16. When Schindler hears that Stern has been placed on a deportation train, he is very concerned. When he gets Stern off the train, we find out the nature of his concern. What was he concerned about, and how does it differ from what we assumed?

17. What happens to the belongings of the deported Jews?

18. A Jewish worker is shown evaluating gold watches, etc. in the warehouse. What disturbing item is dumped in front of him to evaluate? What is his reaction?

19. At the labor camp, what is Helen selected by the commandant to do? How does she feel about this?

20. Why does the commandant order the woman engineer to be shot?

21. Ironically, after he orders her to be killed, what direction does he then give?

22. Why according to the commandant of the labor camp (Amon Goeth) is "today history?"

23. During the liquidation of the ghetto, how does the family hide the jewelry?

24. What happens in the hospital ward?

25. How are the mother and the girl with glasses able to escape?

26. Where does the little girl in the red coat find a place to hide?
27. How do the soldiers locate Jews hidden in walls and under floorboards?
28. What is Schindler's reaction as he watches the liquidation of the ghetto? Who is it that captures his attention during the liquidation?
29. Why does Schindler go to the labor camp?
30. When the commandant is unsatisfied with the number of hinges a worker has produced, what happens?
31. How is Schindler able to get certain Jews added to the list of workers in his factory?
32. What does the woman who comes to see Schindler at the factory want from him? What is his response?
33. How is Helen (Commandant Goeth's maid) treated by him?
34. Why does Schindler tell Helen that he's certain Goeth won't shoot her?
35. Goeth says that _____ is power.
36. According to Schindler, one truly has power when he does what?
37. Why do you think Goeth didn't kill the boy who couldn't get the bathtub stains off?
38. What ceremony is happening at night in the labor camp?
39. What happens to Helen?
40. Why are they playing music for the children?

41. List three places the children hide.
42. Why is Schindler placed in jail?
43. Why does Schindler suggest they do for the people in the cattle cars?
44. What do the Jewish prisoners see falling from the sky?
45. What happens to the little girl in the red coat? What is Schindler's reaction?
46. Why do you think Stern finally wants to have a drink NOW instead of after the war?
47. What does Schindler do with the suitcases of money?
48. What is Stern typing? What is its significance?
49. Stern says, "The list is _____."
50. Why can't Schindler add more names to the list?
51. What does Schindler do to get Helen on his list?
52. Name three things that happen to the women.
53. How does Schindler say he is protected?
54. What excuse does Schindler give the officers to save the children's lives?
55. Who does Schindler see in church?
56. Why are the candles in color? Why do you think this is significant?

57. Why is Schindler considered a criminal?

58. What is Schindler's present and what is inscribed on it?

59. What is Schindler's reaction to receiving this gift? What does this say about him as an individual?

Open Ended Questions

Answer the following questions below. You may use a separate sheet of paper if you don't have enough room.

1. Schindler risked his life in order to save Jews. It was a time when terror reigned. The Jews had been dehumanized in non-Jewish eyes by Nazi propaganda and brutality. Tom Keneally, the author of the book *Schindler's List*, quotes Schindler as having said that "A life is not worth a pack of cigarettes." Yet Schindler risked his own life. Why do you think he did this based on what you saw in the film?

2. In making *Schindler's List*, Spielberg says he tried to be "more of a reporter than a passionate, involved filmmaker—because I wanted to *communicate* information more than I needed to proselytize and convert. The information is so compelling because it wasn't written by Hollywood authors. It comes out of the human experience...[but] out of history." That vision influenced many of his decisions as the film's director. **Identify and describe 3 scenes** that reflect Spielberg's desire to place the viewer "inside the experiences of Holocaust survivors and actual victims as close as a movie can." Describe the effect these scenes had on you as a viewer.

3. Schindler went from being an "antihero" to a hero. What specific events did he experience and realizations did he have to create this transformation?