



Changing life stories

# Holocaust Memorial Day

## WRITING WORKSHEET 1: RESEARCHING REFUGEES

When you write about history – especially the Holocaust – it is important and respectful to the victims to base your story and characters on real events through **research**.

While Tom Palmer was writing *After the War*, he listened to interviews with Holocaust survivors at [www.ldhp.org.uk/?page\\_id=507](http://www.ldhp.org.uk/?page_id=507) and used their stories to create his book.

Minia Jay and Mayer Hersh came to England as refugees in 1945 when they were teenagers. Their families had been murdered by the Nazis and they had lost everything. Here they describe what life was like once that they had been liberated.

Minia: <https://youtu.be/alva13XzHGg>

Mayer: <https://youtu.be/w5gC3ySGGTI>

Now, watch Tom’s video about how he approached writing about the children’s first day as refugees in England: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/holocaust-memorial-day>.

You saw how Tom wrote down keywords after listening to Minia and Mayer’s testimonies to help him decide what he would write in his story. We’d like you to do the same.

Listen to the interviews with Minia Jay and Mayer Hersh again. Write down words that you think might be useful for your story. Choose the words that jump out at you. There are no right or wrong answers. Your story will be about your personal response to Minia’s and Mayer testimony about their experiences during the Holocaust.

Remember that, while Mayer and Minia were refugees 75 years ago, there are refugees around the world who are escaping war and persecution and that they need our help today.


Well done. You have done your **research**.

In the next worksheet, we’ll use your research to help with **planning** a story.