

Pre-AP/Honors English Ninth Grade
Summer Reading Requirements 2026-2027 School Year
Ms. Wicklund | awicklund@victory.com

*The intention behind summer reading is to encourage continued scholarly study between school years as well as promote literacy engagement. If emailing questions over the summer, you must include a parent or guardian in the email; otherwise, I'm unable to respond.

Summer Reading

Read *Metamorphosis* by Frank Kafka—assignment should be completed by Wed., August 19

Read an independent novel selection—project should be completed by Wed., August 19

1. Assignment for *Metamorphosis* by Frank Kafka

Read this novella and take notes over character, setting, plot, and thematic ideas in a composition notebook. You will have an objective quiz on this novella during the first full week of school and will need these notes to help you review. We will also conduct discussions and write a prose over the contents of this novella for which you will be able to utilize your notes. Inclusion of cited quotes is encouraged, but the majority should be your own words. Notes should be handwritten; any typed notes will not be accepted. Example is included below.

2. Project for Independent Novel Selection

Read an independent fictional novel that interests you and then complete a magazine project over the novel's content. Refer to the next page for more specific directions and an example submission. Final products must be printed and submitted in class on the due date; online submissions will not be accepted.

**You will need a notebook (preferably a composition-style notebook) for this class. This notebook will remain in the classroom throughout both semesters and be used solely for English assignments.

***Independent fictional novel selections must have a minimum of 200 pages and contain content equivalent to a Pre-AP/Honors level; comic books, graphic novels, and children's books are not applicable. Avoid choosing a novel that's already been read through school or otherwise and exclude *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell as we'll read these in class during the first semester.

I expect the following in all of your writing:

- proofread for correct conventions (punctuation, capitalization, spelling)
- absolute originality of thought—avoid using artificial intelligence (AI) of any sort or other resources outside of the novella/novel unless otherwise directed; you are capable

******Timeliness, organization, neatness, and completeness are signs of a responsible Pre-AP/Honors student and will impact your grade.**

Independent Novel Magazine Project

After reading your novel selection, create an engaging magazine that presents and, at times, analyzes the content of the book. As your final product should resemble a real magazine, digital websites such as Canva are a phenomenal free resource that provide modifiable templates. While an example is provided below, formatting is not contained to the example; be creative. Note that in the example's table of contents, sections 5-8 have been reduced to one, and sections 9-10 are altered.

The magazine should include all of the following elements:

➤ **Cover Page**

Incorporate the book title and author, student's name, due date, class name, and title of magazine.

➤ **Table of Contents**

Include a table of contents listing each section with a brief description. Your magazine should be neat, organized, and easy to follow.

➤ **Setting**

Explain the setting of your novel. Items may include but are not limited to time period, physical setting, social environment, or potential changes of setting.

➤ **Plot**

Deliver a clear summary of the novel's plot. A summary is in your own words, so avoid using any direct quotes. Include the following: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Note: depending on your novel, certain items may be excluded.

➤ **Protagonist and Antagonist Analysis**

Identify the protagonist's and antagonist's defining qualities, major decisions, and how he or she changes throughout the novel (if change occurs). What are their motivations? Faults? Strengths? Do you agree with his or her actions?

➤ **Author's Purpose**

Research the author of your novel. Based on your findings and your inferences while reading, what do you think the author's intentions were behind writing this novel? What message did he or she hope to convey? Do you feel like it was successful? Worthwhile?

➤ **Biblical Worldview**

Choose either a specific event from the novel or the novel as a whole. Does it align with or challenge biblical values/principles? What does God's Word have to say? Ask the Holy Spirit.

➤ **Editorial**

Argue why you believe that your selection is a legitimate choice for a Pre-AP/Honors reading. This portion is strictly opinion-based.

CHARACTERS

SUMMER READING NOTES

SETTING

THEMES

POOT POINTS

SHORT STORY: "CIVIL PEACE" BY CHINUA ACHEBE

JONATHAN INEGBU = MAIN CHARACTER (PROTAGONIST)

↓
MARIA (WIFE) + FOUR KIDS (YOUNGEST DIED DURING WAR + JONATHAN BOURIED HIM)

• JONATHAN SURVIVED A WAR → HE'S GRATEFUL / UNDERSTANDS GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- REPEATS "NOTHING PUZZLES GOD" THROUGHOUT (1, 2, 4)

• LIVES IN SMALL HOUSE IN OGBI OVERSIDE

ENUGU, NIGERIA - WAR AFTERMATH

• RELATIVELY POOR, EXCEPT HE MADE 20 POUNDS FROM AN "ELGRATIA AWARD FOR RESER MONEY" HE RETURNED (2)

• SHORT STORY STARTS W/ AN OVERVIEW OF HIS EXPERIENCE / OUTCOME OF THE WAR IN NIGERIA, THEN DESCRIBES HIS CIVIL STATE; THE REAL START PICKS UP HALFWAY THROUGH

↓
ONE NIGHT, HE'S AWAKENED BY SILENT NOISE / KNOCKING OF

ANTAGONISTS! → THIEVES (?) / MULTIPLE MEN WHO WANT 100 POUNDS OR THEY'LL SHOOT THE FAMILY (ARE OUTSIDE FRONT DOOR)

KEY THEME QUOTE!

"WAR DONE FINISH... NO CIVIL WAR AGAIN. THIS TIME NA CIVIL PEACE. NO BE SO?" (3)

• THEN, JONATHAN ENDS UP GIVING THEM THE 20 POUNDS THAT HE HAD EARNED.

• ENDS W/ NEIGHBORS' REACTION AND JONATHAN STILL SHOWING FAITH / DEPENDANCE ON GOD'S PROVISION

↓
"DIO I DEPEND ON IT LAST WEEK?" (4)

Alexa Wicklund | August 23, 2018 | AP World History

TIME

HIS WATCHFUL EYE

A novel that depicts the struggles of not only German citizens as they retreat from Russian advances in WWII, but also the hardships of keeping one's moral principles in a time of war.

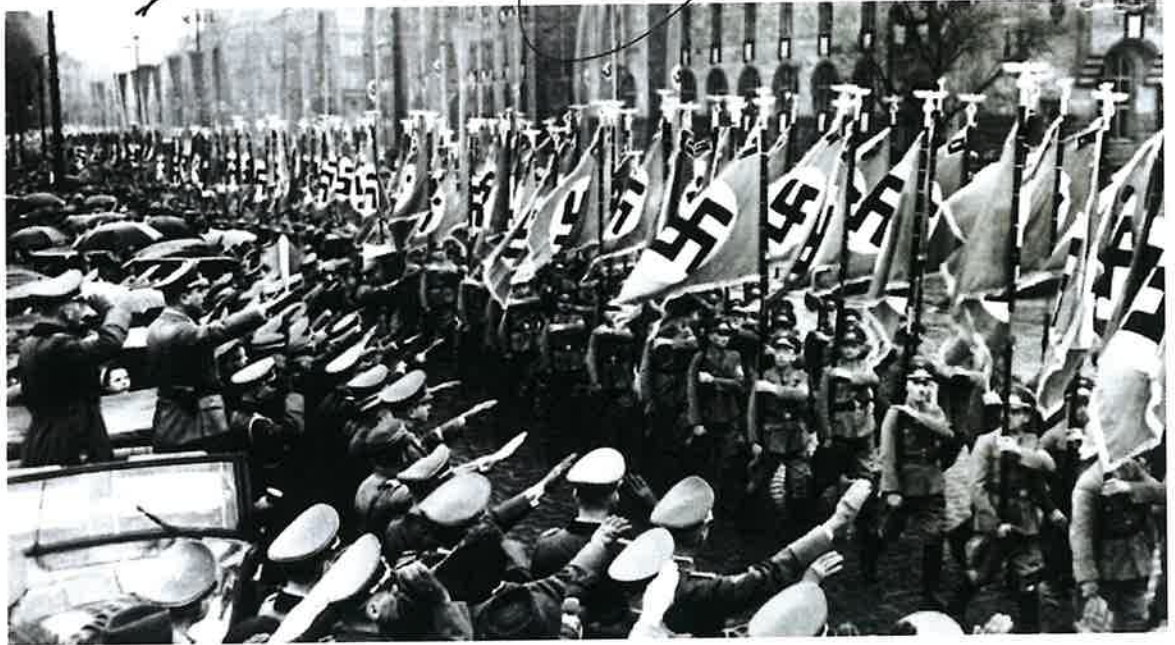


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Excellent
TIME 200/200

2 | Setting

Discover the placing and timing of the novel *His Watchful Eye*.



3 | Plot

Analyze the skeleton of the novel *His Watchful Eye* as well as the adventure the characters set out upon.

5 | Konrad Reichmann

Dive into the sensational character that the novel *His Watchful Eye* revolves around.

6 | Lisette

Examine the backstory of the charismatic main female character in the novel *His Watchful Eye*.

7 | Gunther Krahl

Explore the origins that created the frightening antagonist in the novel *His Watchful Eye*.

8 | Ernst Ehrenberg

Learn the beginning of the character who was the unsuspecting key in the novel *His Watchful Eye*.

9 | Russia's Circumstances

Survey the state of Russia during the events in the novel *His Watchful Eye*.

10 | World War II

Familiarize with the conditions of World War II during the novel *His Watchful Eye*.

11 | Editorial

Dedicated to the thoughts of Time magazine editor, explore the personal evaluation and viewpoint on the legitimacy of the novel *His Watchful Eye* by Jack Cavanaugh.



TIME

Times And Places

The novel *His Watchful Eye* by Jack Cavanaugh occurs in the timeframe of World War II. Beginning on precisely October 14, 1943 and ending April 15, 1945, this book covers a vast and critical period in history. Even though it is mid-October, the weather setting was placed in the freezing white snow, continuing on with this narrative for a good chunk of the beginning of the book. Once the setting altered from the frozen woods and villages of Russia to the more modern city of Berlin, so did the weather, taking on a more spring approach while still keeping a more dull description due to the constant bombings that completely changed the outlook of the capital of Germany. The story begins in west Russia, now Ukraine, as the characters trudge through many inches worth of pure snow. From

there, the author covers terrain between Berlin and Peenemünde, Germany and the Dnieper River in the Ukraine as well as touching down in Poland for a spell. Most of the narrative skips over the summer periods and focuses more on the events occurring in the winter and fall months of those two years, excluding the epilogue's setting, which took place two days drive out of Germany, and, although the author didn't disclose which country, he placed the characters in a setting surrounded by

American forces and camps. The author also included a period of time in the Harz Mountains near Nordhausen, Germany with a setting that revealed the conditions of prisoner-of-war work tunnels and buildings. All in all, *His Watchful Eye* takes place over various landscapes and a large timespan in order to incorporate the entirety of its setting.



The Beginning Of An End

TIME

The plot of *His Watchful Eye* is flooded with interwoven stories and distinct tales told through the perspective of three characters: Konrad Reichmann, Lisette Beckert, and Ernst Ehrenberg. It opens with Konrad, a young German sniper, accompanied with his best friend, Neff Kessel, in West Russia as their infantry repeatedly falls back further and further toward their homeland as the Russian army continues to advance. Within these short spurt retreats, the soldiers housed up in Russian villages, evicting their residents. In one specific village, Neff found himself infatuated with one of the Russian peasant girls, Alina. The only issue was, she was a Partisan, peasants who sabotaged German infantries on a constant basis. Soon enough, Alina was discovered planting a Tellermine in the ground, and Gunther Krahl, the infantry's commander, chose to hang her from a tree as a spectacle to spite Neff on purpose, having noticed his affections. The young man attempted to pull her down, which didn't result in anything but her immediate death and the death of every single villager via burning them in a barn. Neff's outright defiance toward his supreme commander seemed to go unnoticed, and the two, him and Konrad, were sent on an assassination mission of a Russian general. In the midst of the operation, a sniper in the thicket took shots at them from behind, cornering them, ending in the death of Neff and Konrad firing blind shots behind him as he clambered to reach safe ground. Escaping with his neck and Neff's camera, Konrad chose to desert the Waffen SS and ventured back to Berlin, taking up residence in Ramah Cabin, a safe house in the forest where his love interest, Lisette Beckert, along with mentors Josef and Mady Schumacher with their group of rescued, outcast children stayed. Still reeling over the sudden death of Neff, Konrad chose to take vengeance on the one person he could blame: Adolf Hitler. The young man disappears for months, patiently waiting to assassinate the man responsible for his grief. He came close, as well, to finishing off the dictator, but his moral upbringing halted his hand and Konrad chose instead to take a vow to no longer murder another human being, already seeing so much death in his young life. The only issue was, Konrad realized as soon as he had developed Neff's last film, that his superior officer, Gunther Krahl, had been the one to kill Neff, most likely, having sent them on a solo mission, taking the opportunity to end the troublemaker. It was on a courtesy visit to his father's house that Konrad realized the extent of Krahl's hatred as he found his father dead with a shot to the head. Hiding out in the attic for two days to wait out the shooter, Konrad caught a glimpse of Krahl's face through the floorboards. The man had been sent to kill Konrad due to his picture of Hitler in the crosshairs, sent to the Waffen generals. Krahl had recognized the

The Beginning Of An End
(cont.)**TIME**

homemade design from Neff's camera and retained permission to hunt down the man who had posed a threat to the dictator. Returning back to Ramah Cabin, the man attempted to keep Lisette from journeying out to Berlin daily for her work, but failed when she countered that she was the sole provider of the group with her job transcription foreign magazines to German. He faced further problems as he realized the cabin was housing gunned down American pilots in exchange for supplies. On the other side of the country, Ernst Ehrenberg, a rather brilliant German scientist and Konrad's childhood friend, was finding himself falling for a POW French secretary, Rachelle, of Colonel Rathke, his newly stationed superior. In attempts to prove to her that he wasn't the Waffen SS uniform he wore, Ernst opted to deliver a letter for her. To her husband. Despite his major disappointment in learning of her marriage, Ernst kept his word and conceded to passing notes between her and her husband, Marcel. Konrad's situation deepened, though, as a near death run-in with Krahl on the streets of Berlin with Lisette only heightened his urgency to make sure everyone under his charge was safe. Josef had died, leaving him as the head of Ramah Cabin. After converging with one of the Americans, Major Parks, the two agreed to take the women and children to the American camps for safety from Russian advances as long as Konrad could deliver to him a German scientist that the Americans wanted, codename Peregrine. Setting out with the thought that Peregrine was a Colonel Rathke, Konrad succeeded in kidnapping the man, and, after colliding with them by pure chance, took Ernst and Rachelle with him. Ernst, though, insisted that they had to sneak out Marcel from the prison camp tunnels in which he was forced to work. With holding the Colonel at gunpoint, they gained access, but, in their departure, were made and ended with the Colonel dead from bullet wounds. Learning that he sought a man named Peregrine, it was revealed that Ernst, in fact, was somehow the real Peregrine. Sadly, Marcel died from the beatings and bullets he had taken in the camp during their journey back to Berlin, and Ernst managed to convince Major Parks to allow Rachelle along as his wife. The plot ends as the Russians are advancing through the forest, but not before Krahl discovers the cabin. Tomcat, one of the disabled children, had wandered to the front of the house and Lisette followed him only to come face to face with Gunther. Konrad, in an attempt to save them without breaking his vow of no murder, fired Krahl in the leg that he had shot years ago in Russia; Krahl succeeded in shooting the young man in his own leg and chest in retaliation. As Lisette escaped around the house during the shoot off with Tomcat in tow, the book ends with Russian forces bursting through the trees and, presumably, Konrad's death.

**The Roots Of A
German Lieutenant****TIME**

Konrad Reichmann, the protagonist of *His Watchful Eye*, began life engulfed in the Hitler Youth movement in Germany. By the time he was a teenager in 1940, Konrad had joined a Hitler Youth group, the Pankow Unit. After graduation, the young man was recruited into the Waffen SS by his childhood idol, three-years-older Gunther Krahl, and proceeded to drag his best friend Neff Kessel with him into World War II. Three years pass and Konrad had since landed himself a reputation as a first-rate sniper, Neff accompanying him with a camera to account for the assassinations. The infantry eventually found themselves back-peddalling through Russia in retreat in 1943. The Third Reich was falling apart, and Konrad, all the while dealing with his newfound hatred for Krahl due to the man's growing fascination with massacring innocents, finds himself with a murdered best friend and a guilty conscience. He decides to withdraw back to a safe house in Berlin: Ramah Cabin, where his childhood love, Lisette Beckert, and old mentors, Josef and Mady Schumacher, reside caring for outcast children. Away from the front lines, only one thing hindered Konrad now: the fact that he was a German deserter residing in the heart of his country. Still reeling over the recent death of Neff, Konrad decided to take matters into his own hands and terminate the one solely responsible for his grief: Adolf Hitler. The young man near succeeds, but, with Der Fütther's head in his rifle's sites, Konrad chose instead to take vow of nonviolence, realizing he was unwilling to become the monster war had molded him into. This declaration proves difficult as Konrad realizes his former commanding officer, and Neff's killer, Gunther Krahl, was out for Konrad's blood; accompanied with his new responsibility of protecting the residents of Ramah Cabin after Josef's death, the young man's oath was threatened, especially when he realized that Ramah Cabin was concealing gunned down American pilots in trade for supplies. Soon enough, the imminent threat of the Russian invasion was at hand, and, with nowhere to turn, American Major Parks offers a way of transporting out Lisette, Mady, and the children if Konrad can bring him a German scientist, codename Peregrine. With this task, the young man sets out toward Nordhausen, Germany to kidnap Colonel Rathke who he believes to be the scientist. Unfortunately, the man gets shot, but, his friend Ernst Ehrenburg, who he picks up along the journey, later reveals that he is Peregrine. The novel ends with Konrad sacrificing his life to save Lisette and one of the children, Tomcat, from Krahl's bullets right before a Russian infantry storms the forest and takes them both down. Thus the tale of the beginning, an end, of Konrad Reichmann.

TIME

Woman In The Midst Of War

Lisette Beckert, the female lead in the novel *His Watchful Eye*, grew up amidst the heart of World War II. Her closest friends, Konrad Reichmann, Ernst Ehrenburg, and Neff Kessel had joined the Hitler Youth movement while she decided to spend her time helping out Josef and Mady Schumacher in Ramah Cabin, a safe house for disabled children that would otherwise be cast out for dead. A young woman now, Lisette found herself being the sole provider for Ramah Cabin through her work of translating foreign magazines into German for the Defense Ministry under Herr Altbusser as Josef's health failed. Traveling home in 1943, she is confronted with the news of Neff and Konrad's death. Devastated, she forces herself to continue on in life, and, on the night of an annual Christmas party at the Schumacher's home, Konrad walks through the front door, claiming to be on his Christmas leave to say his last goodbyes to the dying Josef. The young man brings more than her heart with him as she later learns that he planned to murder Adolf Hitler. He disappears for months after coming back, but Lisette didn't have much time to worry about him as Mady had welcomed gunned down American pilots to hide in their basement in exchange for supplies. Her ability to speak English assists this exchange of aid, but, just as she gets comfortable with them being under the same roof, Konrad appears again, bringing the news that their old friend, Gunther Krahl, was after him and thus putting her in harm's way. Lisette, despite his pleas, refuses to quit her job and, one day, finds herself pulled into a gunfight exchange between Konrad and Gunther in the bombed city of Berlin. Thankfully, Konrad's ability exceeded his superior's, and the two managed to slip through the rubble to safety. The terrors didn't end there, though, when she learned the Russians were closing in upon the city. When their only hope of being able to leave safely lied in whether Konrad could bring back a German scientist named Peregrine, Lisette busied herself caring for the children as much as she could in the aftermath of Josef's death. Weeks pass and Konrad arrives back at Ramah Cabin with Ernst and a Frenchwoman. The American Major Parks agreed to take the woman, Ernst, and the children with him to the base but refused to take Konrad due to his status as a Waffen SS officer. There was no time to argue the decision either as moments later, when Lisette is walking the front landscape to retrieve one of the children, Tomcat, she is confronted by Krahl as he attempts to kill her and the boy. Konrad steps in, but his vow to not murder anymore hindered him from shooting Gunther pointblank. The last Lisette Beckert saw of him was lying on the ground, near death, as she fled Ramah Cabin with the others.

The Downfall of A Nazi Soldier

TIME

Gunther Krahl, the antagonist of the novel *His Watchful Eye*, started of life as an ambitious teenager embedded in the Hitler Youth. He was known for being more intelligent than even the teacher and was constantly praised for his strength and skill in all aspects; it was no surprise when he rose to command a Waffen SS unit after graduating. Tramping his way into Russia in the name of Adolf Hitler all the way up to 1943, Krahl began to change. A spark of cruelty wormed its way into his tactics, and, when the German infantry was forced to fall back due to Russian advances, Krahl took out his sick fascination with death on peasants they came into contact with, burning them up in barns and hanging a young girl Alina, a known Partisan who had tried to drive out the Germans. When a soldier under him, Neff Kessel, had tried to pull her down, he had attempted to shoot him, but Neff's best friend, Lieutenant Konrad Reichmann, had stepped in the way and coaxed Neff down after firing carefully placed bullets at Krahl to keep the man at bay. Gunther had seemed to let it slide, seeing as the three had history, but secretly followed the two on their assassination mission of a Russian general with intentions to murder them both. He only succeeded in killing Neff, Konrad firing a bullet in Krahl's leg from a blind shot. The lieutenant then disappeared from Krahl's infantry, deserting, and was out of the man's mind until he was pulled into a meeting with the Waffen SS generals and shown a picture with Adolf Hitler front and center, crosshairs over his forehead. One glance and the man recognized the camera lens of Neff Kessel, which could only mean that Konrad had taken the photo. Permission was granted, and Krahl set out on a manhunt. He learned Konrad's whereabouts in Berlin by their mutual friend, Gael; he proceeded to murder Konrad's father in his

house and nearly succeeded in killing Konrad in the same house when the young man came to visit, and later when he trailed Lisette in Berlin and ripped off a few shots at the two of them. Konrad and Lisette had escaped, drawing him into a room full of pictures of himself at various locations with those same crosshairs. He concluded that Konrad no longer had the guts to kill him; with that knowledge under his belt, the man trekked up to Ramah Cabin and ambushed Konrad, eventually ending him by shooting him twice: in the leg and in the chest. His victory was short-lived though, as Gunther Krahl's last vision was of a Russian raid group storming through the trees.



TIME

Codename Peregrine

Ernst Ehrenberg, the unsuspecting key in the novel *His Watchful Eye*, started out his ambitions among his fellow friends: in the Hitler Youth. Unlike them, though, Ernst knew he wasn't quite suited for warfare and instead found himself a career path as one of Germany's scientists dedicated to top-secret weapons inventing and manufacturing. The novel opened up with him and others test-driving an A-4 rocket in Poland. After a few instances of theories tossed around and such, the young man is sent back to Germany for his next orders. They sent him to Nordhausen, Germany to work under Colonel Albert Rathke for the sake of doing more research than production. Striding into the man's office, Ernst encounters his rather attractive and timid secretary, whom he later learns in a French POW named Rachelle. He found himself falling head over heels for her; in an effort to prove to her that he was more than the Waffen SS uniform he wore, Ernst offered to do anything for her that she asked to show his well interests. She, conceding, asked him to deliver a note to her husband, who labored in the work tunnels also as a POW. Shocked to learn that she was married, Ernst buried his feelings and instead willingly delivered notes between the two lovers. His world was turned upside down when, one day as he walked into Rathke's office, Konrad Reichmann, his old friend, was there. Circumstances and scenarios unfolded, eventually landing Konrad in a passenger seat, Colonel Rathke driving as Rachelle sat behind him holding a gun to his head, Ernst beside her in the back. Konrad's brief explanation of how he needed Rathke to get Ramah Cabin safe passage out of the warzone ringing in his head, Ernst insisted that they take a pit stop at the tunnels and break out Marcel, Rachelle's husband. He determined it would be rather easy seeing as how Rathke had clearance into the place. Scenes unfolded, ending with Marcel in the trunk, the car headed out; Rathke, nerves on edge, began screaming to the gate guard, compromising them. Konrad hit the gas, and the car shot forward as bullets fired at them rapidly as they drove off. Unfortunately, Rathke was discovered dead in the passenger seat due to gunshot wounds. Checking the back trunk, Marcel had obtained some grazes. Although minor, combined with previous beatings, the French man died a few days later. In a conversation of the scenarios that had unfolded, Ernst soon learned that the man he needed was codenamed Peregrine. Joyfully, Ernst revealed that he was Peregrine, and the three headed back to Ramah Cabin, and Ernst agreed to go with the American Major Parks to his safe camp as long as he brought Rachelle as his wife and Lisette and Mady, with the children, along with him. With this confirmation, Ernst and Rachelle headed out the back door to slide out discreetly from the advancing Russians, heading toward the Americans instead.

Two Steps Back
One Step Forward

TIME

The overall setting of the Soviet Union in the novel *His Watchful Eye* is centered around the period of time when Russia was advancing upon the Western front to push back the German army. When the novel begins in late 1943, the main character Konrad Reichmann finds himself being pushed to retreat with his infantry back toward Germany as Russia pursues them. In Berlin at this same time, Lisette, another main character, experiences the constant night bombings of Berlin, Germany. In real history, this advance began from the Teheran Conference, where the United States of America, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union agreed to the strategy of bombing Germany while Russia pressured on the ground. Known in Russia as the Summer-Autumn Campaign of 1943, the two offenses, Battle of Smolensk and Lower Dnieper Offensive, both conducted by the Red Army, drove the Germans out of Russia back into their country, causing the power of the Western Front to fall back into the hands of the Soviet Union. Russia continued in its advances, which aren't quite



mentioned through the years of the novel until 1945 when the main characters are faced with the closing in forces of Russia, which they respond to by requesting safe passage with American Major Parks. In actual history, this was called the Berlin Strategic Offensive Operation that resolved into the Battle of Berlin. Two Russian forces attacked from the east and north simultaneously upon the capital, making their way

through the suburbs toward the center of the city. It was in this victory that Hitler and a few of his followers committed suicide to escape being captured by the Soviet Army. It was also this valiant effort by the Soviet Union that brought about the close of the war. Thus were the circumstances surrounding Russia and its advances during World War II.

Worldwide
Conflict

TIME

The overall setting of the entire novel *His Watchful Eye* is placed in the turmoil of World War II. This war began when Adolf Hitler took his German forces and chose to invade neighboring country Poland in 1939. From this, Hitler began to invade other countries such as Denmark constantly without pulling back his forces. Soon enough, once

Japan attacked the United States of America via Pearl Harbor, the Allies were given an addition to their impenetrable force to put a stop to Hitler's tyranny, joined with Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, among other countries. When the novel's setting came into play, World War II was already a few years running, and the Teheran Conference was the

most recent event. Within this, the Allies agreed to bomb Germany relentlessly while armies attacked Germany from both Russia's side and the opposite side by American and Britain troops. Throughout the next two years, such events as D-Day and Paris liberated, among other victories, occurred. Conferences such as the Yalta Conference in February and Potsdam Conference in April were brought together for final adjustments and decisions. The Allies crossed the Rhine in 1945, advanced across Europe, headed for a victory over Germany. Within the same month President Roosevelt dies, April, is when the Russians invade Berlin, conquering the capital of Germany. In that month, also, Adolf Hitler committed suicide and the German forces surrendered; thus the Allies found victory over the dictator, becoming V-E Day. Although this is where the book's story ends, World War II would continue on for a bit longer as Japan becomes a major issue, but, following the atomic bombs upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered and thus World War II came to a final close.



A Word From The Editor

TIME

The novel *His Watchful Eye* by Jack Cavanaugh contained a multitude of historical value and was thus a legitimate book to read. On the more obvious side, this book's historical value is embedded in one of the most memorable events in history: World War II. It takes on the perspective of German soldiers and citizens during this period of time, showing, through Lisette Beckert, what it was like during the constant bombings of Berlin, Germany. It also shows, through Konrad Reichmann and Gunther Krahl, the firsthand experiences of German infantries as they experienced Russian advances. The novel also, through Ernst Ehrenberg, reveals the importance of German scientists to the Allies as well; by such characters as Josef and Mady Schumacher, the author touches base on the difficulties of disabled children in Germany through

Hitler's dictatorship. Toward the end of the novel, when it enters in the Russian advances for Berlin, creatively brings in the successful victory of the Soviet Union. The novel incorporates multiple different historic events during World War II between Germany and the Soviet Union, which is a perspective that isn't as broadly shown through other books, even the idea of taken the side of a German Waffen SS lieutenant and give him a heart and compassion is important in itself. Jack Cavanaugh made sure to show how, even in such a horrendous war, not everyone is collectively evil; some people retained their humanity. It was thus a legitimate book to read as it showed the conflict of moral principles in a time of war and battled the choice of protecting loved ones or loyalty to a failing

country whose objectives differ greatly from the main characters. Portrayed through Konrad, who struggled with the grotesque feeling of murdering other, this concept is guaranteed to echo in real soldiers who were brainwashed by such things as the Hitler Youth to believe what they were doing was right. Therefore, *His Watchful Eye* by Jack Cavanaugh was a very legitimate book to read, containing a large portion of historical value as well.

