

I want to go home ! *By E. Bormann (Rina's great-grandmother) (approximately 1945-1948)
translated from German and adapted by Paul Brehmer and Thimon Poppe
Eva Bormann was a refugee from Danzig who was brought to the Oksbøl Refugee Camp after
Danzig had become Polish and all ethnic Germans had to leave.
The Oksbøl Refugee Camp was the largest camp for German Refugees in Denmark after World War
II.*

Name:Jana

Date: April 26th, 2016

This is the refugee's comfort
On Holy Advent
We need to be humble
Even if our homesickness makes us grumble
5 Oh Danzig, oh my Danzig!
I love you so much
The towers, gate and gable
The great, great sea!

humble: vernederen, bescheiden
grumble: moppen

gable: geveltop, Giebel

10

I want to go home !
I would not want to drive
I would walk the whole way
And everybody who'd ask,
15 They should know; I want to see Danzig.
I want to be at the Vistula again
The Mottlau, the Radaune lakes,
It could cure my pains,
That would be wonderful, great
20 The old crane portal I want to greet
The proud towers I want to see
Well, I had to part
And go far away
I want to walk through Danzig's streets
25 Also go to Sopot once.
I would step through the widths
then I'd be happy, I would be home

Vistula: Weichsel, the largest river in Poland
Mottlau: a river in Poland

crane portal: Kraan, Krantor

25

Sopot: a seaside resort close to Danzig

30

I know it (Danzig) wouldn't be the same.
The beautiful Danzig in the North
I am craving for with pain
Unforgettable, it will exist in its old pride
In the ray of sunshine in front of my eyes
My Danzig, Baltic pearl.
35 I will always see you the way
You used to be

to crave: hunker naar, sich nach etw. sehnen

Baltic Sea: Oostzee, Ostsee

35

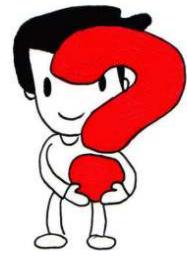
I would not want to drive
I would walk the whole way
I would not resent my fate
If I could only see you soon

resent: aanstoot nemen fate: lot

40

You, my precious fateful home
Danzig; city of glory and fame
To me you will always be the same
And I mean for the rest of my life

fateful: noodlottig



Think (3 minutes)

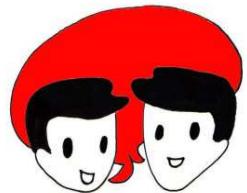
- 1.) Pre -reading: Describe how you feel about your hometown. How is it part of your identity? How would you feel if you were forced to leave it? Write down a few keywords. You will need them for task 4.

My hometown means a lot to me since I was raised up in this environment and it belongs to me like my family. All my friends live here and when I come home after a longer time on holidays, I feel a strong sense of belonging and a feeling of security.

PAIR (15 minutes)

- 2.) Read the poem aloud and then analyse it using the following language help:

The poem deals with/ is about/ describes the feeling of homesickness of the refugee Eva Bormann.



In the poem the speaker thinks about her hometown Danzig.

The poem is addressed to people missing their homes who suffered from flight and expulsion.

The first part/stanza describes her love to Danzig.

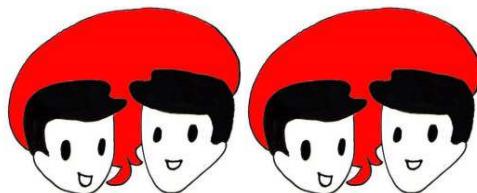
The poet's attitude towards the theme is positive since her hometown means a lot to her and she wishes to return soon.

The poem creates a thoughtful mood.

The poem wants to express her feeling of belonging and her strong connection with Danzig.

- 3.) Explain the poem in its historical context.

Because of the shifting of borders and the changing balance of power after World War II, there were many displaced persons and refugees all over Europe. The poet Eva Bormann was one of the concerned people who belonged to the group of displaced persons.



SHARE (15 minutes)

- 4.) Team up with another pair and exchange your ideas from 1-3. (groups of 4 or 6)
Discuss whether you feel the same way about your hometown as Bormann.
What could be the reason for similarities or differences?

