

Booktalk!

Resistance Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 2 actors (Chaya, Esther)
- Chaya: black or grey pants, white blouse, brown knee-high boots, brown or black satchel containing copy of *Resistance*, hair tied in a simple ponytail (using blue ribbon)
- Esther: black or grey pants, white blouse, short boots, hair worn down, small tote bag



- Chaya:** *(walking purposefully onstage, with Esther following closely behind; Chaya walking backwards for a few steps & looking behind them to make sure they weren't followed; Chaya stopping and confronting Esther angrily)* Our job is NOT to debate the racists or the uninformed. We are HERE to complete a mission, nothing more.
- Esther:** *(pleading)* But you heard his lies – saying that Jews are responsible for diseases like typhus & lice; saying that there's no such thing as extermination camps – all that stupidity! How could you sit there like it didn't matter?
- Chaya:** Because it DOESN'T matter! Not when compared to the larger picture of what we're doing here. You could've gotten us killed... *(pausing briefly)* and for what? Did you think you'd change his mind?
- Esther:** *(weakly)* No, I –
- Chaya:** *(cutting off Esther abruptly)* He was wrong, and hateful. But HE is not our enemy.
- Esther:** *(passionately)* He IS the enemy, Chaya! The war will end one day and the Germans will go back to their own land. But here, in Poland, we must live alongside thousands of people just like that man. *(hesitating briefly then continuing emphatically)* If we can't stop HIS hatred, this will happen again and again and AGAIN!
- Chaya:** *(nodding slightly & softening her tone)* You're right. You're right about all of that. *(more emphatically)* But your TIMING was terrible.

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- Esther:** *(pausing & looking downtrodden, her shoulders dropping somewhat)* What now?
- Chaya:** *(shrugging, shaking her head & throwing her arms in the air; then looking back in the direction from which they came & walking forwards slowly, towards the other side of the stage)*
- Esther:** *(following behind Chaya)* I knew you wanted me to keep quiet back there. I tried. I REALLY did. But isn't that the point of the resistance – to make the world notice us?
- Chaya:** *(stopping and facing Chaya; speaking urgently)* The POINT of the resistance is to save lives... *(pausing for effect)* Every single day, more Jews are dying. Our fight is to stop that from happening. Remember: we need to get to the Warsaw Ghetto in one piece. Nothing else matters.
- Esther:** *(pleading with Chaya)* I'll do better tomorrow. *(pausing)* I give you my word.
- Chaya:** Can you really?
- Esther:** Yes, I can... and I WILL! *(walking past Chaya & stopping in front of her so that they're facing each other)* Don't YOU ever make mistakes?
- Chaya:** *(sighing heavily)* Every day... *(speaking more gently)* But I learn from them and go on.
- Esther:** That's what I'm doing, too. And one day, I'll become your equal, Chaya, not your burden. *(continuing to walk across stage & exiting on other side)*
- Chaya:** *(stopping once Esther has left stage & turning to address audience)* Can she? Or will Esther's impulsive teenage behaviour get us BOTH killed before we finish our assignment? *(pausing to open up satchel & pulling out a copy of Resistance)* Look for *Resistance* at your Scholastic Book Fair, and find out for yourselves.