

Name: _____

Date: _____

BUILDING BACKGROUND: "FIRST THEY CAME" POETRY RESPONSE

The Diary of Anne Frank

Directions: Read the poem below. As you read, take note of any literary elements you find, words that stand out, etc. Then, on the back, complete the questions regarding the poem. You should use the Internet as a resource!

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

- Martin Niemöller

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-

1. What is a "Socialist"? _____

2. What is a "Trade Unionist"? _____

3. What is a "Jew"? _____

4. What do you think the message of this poem is? In other words, what did the author want readers to learn from reading this poem? _____

5. Who is Martin Niemöller? What facts can you find about him?
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 - b. _____
 - c. _____

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