‘Dear Diary’

1. Where were Polish Jews sent to live once the Nazis took over Poland?
   They were sent to live in segregated communities called ghettos around the country.

2. How did Miriam’s diary come to be published?
   Miriam’s old teacher received the book after the war and took it with her to Israel. The notebook was given to Yad Vashem and parts of it were published in various languages.

3. What did Rutka Laskier’s family do when the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933?
   They moved from the northern Polish city of Gdansk to the southern town of Bedzin.

4. How did Rutka’s diary survive the war? Who kept it?
   Rutka arranged with a Catholic friend that the diary would be hidden in the house she was living in. The friend, Stanislawa, kept the diary for 64 years before it was eventually published.

5. List three things you learn about Petr Ginz from the article.
   Students might include the fact that he grew up in Czechoslovakia and knew the language Esperanto. He was something of a child prodigy and had written five novels by the time he was 14. He was of mixed Jewish and Christian ancestry and was transported to Thereisienstadt at 14. He created the Vedem newspaper in the camp but was transported to Auschwitz and killed in the gas chambers there.

6. State two things Yoko Moriwaki wrote about in her diary.
   She wrote about the war, her daily life and school events in her diary.

7. What was the Siege of Leningrad? How many people are estimated to have died in it?
   The siege was when the Germans surrounded Leningrad (St. Petersburg) and prevented food and supplies from being given to the people in the city. 1.5 million people are estimated to have died in the siege.

8. What happened to Tanya Savicheva’s larger diary?
   The family burned it for fuel during the cold weather.