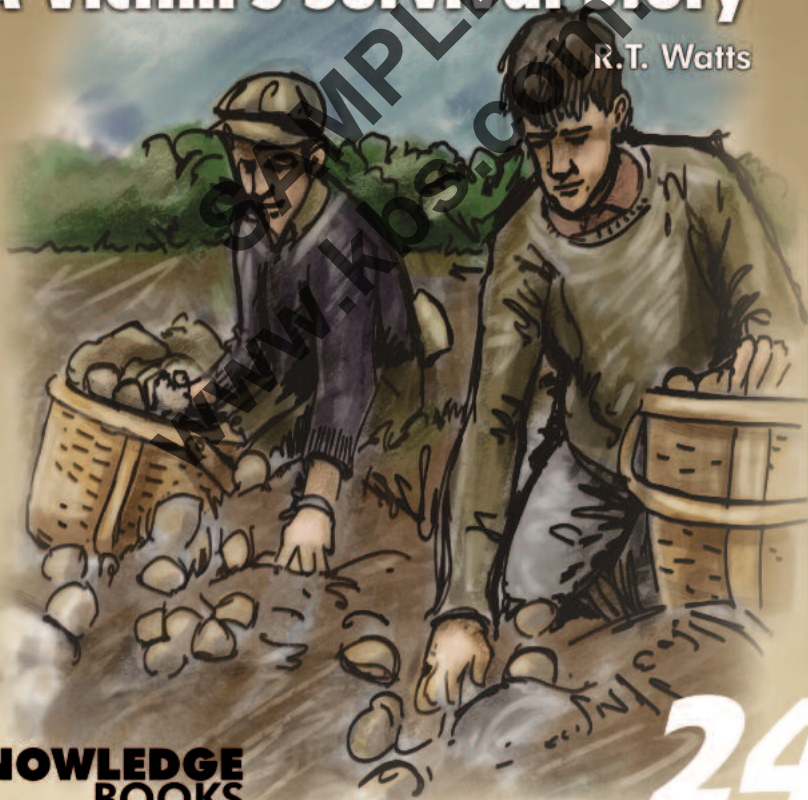


eXplore

# THE BOY IN BUCHENWALD

## A Victim's Survival Story

R.T. Watts



**KNOWLEDGE  
BOOKS**

**24**

**Reading Recovery Level:** 19

**Word Count:** 1670

**Content:** Historical Recount, Explanation, Report.

**ACARA F-10 References:**

**Learning Areas:**

English; Humanities and Social Sciences; Science; Health and Physical Education.

**General Capabilities:**

Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability.

**Cross Curriculum Priorities:**

Sustainability.

**SAMPLE**  
**www.kbs.com.au**

eXplore

# THE BOY IN BUCHENWALD

## A Victim's Survival Story

R.T. Watts



**KNOWLEDGE  
BOOKS**

**24**

**Teacher Notes:**

In this inspirational and true survival story, Steffan, a Polish teenage boy, finds himself imprisoned during World War 2 in Buchenwald, a Nazi concentration camp. Steffan's recount of the things he did to stay alive seems both incredible and unbelievable. This story also explains the terrible suffering endured by people simply because of their views, their faith, or their birthplace.

**Discussion Points for Consideration:**

1. Why were Jewish people sent to the Nazi concentration camps?
2. What does the word Holocaust mean?
3. What happened to the Nazis after the Holocaust?

**Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading the book:**

barracks, Buchenwald, Nazi, concentration, Germany, factories, former, soldiers, starving, tongues, bombers, prisoners, explosion, forgiven, capture, experiment, Jewish, political, disinfected, separated, factories, survive, conditions, injection, Americans.

**SENSITIVITY NOTICE:**

This book is not suitable for a young reader. Restriction should be considered based on age. Adolescent readers will find the topic confronting and disturbing. Prior notice before reading should be considered.

## Contents

---

1. Poland
2. Hitler
3. Farm Work
4. Escape
5. Capture and Train Journey
6. Buchenwald
7. The Hunger
8. The Experiment
9. The Cold
10. Freedom







This is not my story. This story was told to me by a man named Steffan 30 years ago. I was honoured that he thought me worthy to talk with for a day. He wanted me to write his story. I am sorry to Steffan that it has taken so long.

This story is about Poland during World War II and what happened to Steffan in the concentration camps. It is not a happy story but tells how important it is to try hard to get what you need. Steffan lived through hell, but he never gave up.





SAMPLE  
www.kbs.com.au

## 1. Poland

Poland was my home. I was just 15 years old when the war started. In 1939, Poland was attacked by Germany on one side and by Russia on the other.

Poland had great land for growing food and plenty of factories. Both sides wanted to take these border areas for themselves.

Poland fought hard but two big armies on each side was too much. We were crushed!



The Germans took over the area where I lived. All Jewish people were made to wear a yellow star badge on their front and back. They had to wear the yellow star every time they left the house.

I saw boys my own age wearing these badges. Even very young children had to wear the badge.

SAMPLE  
www.kbs.com.au





## 2. Hitler

Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany. He had formed his own political group called the Nazi Party. He told the German people that they would be much better off under his rule.

Many Germans were still hungry and poor. These people were promised they would be much better off, with plenty of food. Hitler spent a lot of money and blamed Germany's problems on Jewish people and on other countries.



SAMPLE  
www.kbs.com.au