

Passages

Reading Level 4



Title: The Island on Bird Street

Author: Uri Orley

Sample From The Book

I woke up. Father was sitting on the floor with a lit candle beside him. I was very sleepy and still in the middle of a dream. I yawned and tried to get back to it. Sometimes, if you're not fully awake yet, it works. Mother once told me that you can do it if you don't look out the window first. But there was nothing to see in the window now, anyway, because it was dark outside.

I wanted to know, though, what father was doing on the floor. He had some small pieces of metal. I could hear them clink. He wiped them and looked at them. And then he noticed me sitting up in bed. At first he covered everything with his hands as though it were a secret. But then I knew what it was. I could see the trigger and the butt. Father had a pistol! Suddenly I was wide awake. Was he going to kill some Germans?

Mother still hadn't come back. She had gone to visit some friends in Ghetto A and never returned. That was a week ago, or maybe a week and a half. I didn't count the days, because it would have made me too sad...



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