

Raoul Wallenberg

“To me there’s no other choice”

Discussion points about the Wallenberg exhibition

1. RW said “To me there’s no other choice.” What could he have meant by that?
2. What is moral courage? Can you give a recent or a historical example of moral courage or cowardice?
3. What is “tolerance”? How is it related to curiosity?
4. Peer pressure at school or at work can be strong. Does it require moral courage to resist?
5. What does it mean to stand up for something? What are the risks involved?
6. Why do people often avoid standing up for what they believe in?
7. Have you ever stood up for someone who was bullied? What was your experience in doing so?
8. Passive bystanders enable oppressors to go on being cruel. Why is that?
9. There were people who hid the Jews or saved them in other ways. What characterized such people?
10. What do you think you would have done if you had lived as a non-Jew in Budapest during late fall in 1944, knowing that Jews were being persecuted and shot dead in the Danube, and that Wallenberg and other diplomats were trying to save them?
11. Some countries refused to join in the persecution of Jews when occupied by the Nazis. How do you explain that?
12. What injustices are you upset about yourself, in your own life? What are you doing about it?
13. When you hear someone expressing prejudice towards a particular group or a people –what can you do to challenge his or her opinions?
14. How did the Wallenberg exhibition change or improve your understanding of moral courage?
15. What in Wallenberg’s earlier life could have prepared him for his work in Budapest?
16. What hate crimes have occurred in your community? How did you react to them?
17. What groups are looked down upon in your community? What can you do to prevent that?
18. Do you know any immigrants or refugees? Do you know any people from other backgrounds or religions?
19. If one of your friends expresses prejudice towards someone or a group of people, what will you do?
20. Have you ever tried to avoid learning more about a situation when action was required, so that you won’t feel obliged to act?
21. Do you believe you will think or act differently in any way after visiting this exhibition?

The questions were developed by psychoanalyst and author Tomas Böhm, who has written, among other works, *Revenge - the dynamics of a frightening urge and its taming* (with Kaplan, S, 2011, Karnac).

