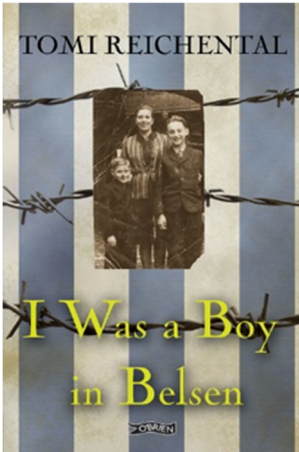


Question 6

Tomi Reichental was born in Slovakia in 1935. He came to live in Ireland in 1959. In his autobiography, *I Was a Boy in Belsen*, he describes how his family was transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944. Read the extract below and answer the questions which follow.



It was a box on wheels, the cattle carriage that we were in along with up to fifty others. There was straw on the floor and a large barrel in the centre, along with a couple of buckets. This was our toilet.

It was impossible to move, we were so tightly packed in together. The closing of the door behind us signified the end of our civilised life. We were no longer citizens, no longer human beings.

We were in that carriage for seven days. The train stopped on the evening of the 9th November. The doors were flung open. German voices began to scream at us, all at the same time, over and over again: 'HERAUS! HERAUS! SCHNELL! SCHNELL!' (OUT! OUT! HURRY! HURRY!)

There was a relentless barking that just wouldn't stop. Bright light flooded the carriage. Desperately frightened, I grabbed my mother's hand as everyone moved towards the entrance.

(a) What age was Tomi Reichental when he was transported to Bergen-Belsen in 1944?

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(b) What hardships did the Reichental family endure on their way to Bergen-Belsen?

(c) What frightened Tomi Reichental when the train stopped?

(d) *I was a Boy in Belsen* by Tomi Reichental is an autobiography.
What is the difference between a biography and an autobiography?

(e) Towards the end of his book Tomi Reichental writes that as one of the last Holocaust survivors he has a 'moral duty' to tell his story.
Suggest **two** reasons why it is important that his story should be told.

(f) What is meant by the term, 'the Holocaust'?

(g) Apart from Jewish people in Europe, name **two** other groups of people who were targeted for persecution by the Nazis and explain why the Nazis persecuted them.

First group:
Why they were persecuted:
Second group:
Why they were persecuted: