

Lesson 8 SURVIVORS AND LIBERATORS

Reflect and Respond

Either in class or as homework, have students reflect and respond to one or more of the topics below or have them develop a topic that has meaning for them based on the material covered in the lesson.

- A frequently cited dictum on Holocaust representation is German philosopher and sociologist Theodor Adorno's statement: "...to write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric..." How do you interpret this statement? What role do you feel poetry plays in chronicling the individual's experience during or after the Holocaust? What is the value of reading and studying Holocaust poetry? What are the possible limitations?
- Following the Holocaust, many survivors questioned why they had been spared when so many of their family, friends, and neighbors had perished. Similarly, survivors of other catastrophes (e.g., September 11th) also expressed feelings of guilt for having survived. Why do you think people have this reaction? Do you think such feelings influence how the survivors go on to live their lives? If so, how?