

**Thank you notes to
Steve Goldberg
who met with 5th and 6th grade students at the
Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy
in Charlotte
on November 16, 2023.**

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

I am a student that you taught about Abe Piasek. I really liked your talk and presentation and was really fun. I learned a lot about Abe. These facts about the Holocaust stood out to me: The Holocaust was the systematic persecution of 6 million Jews. Of the about 6 million Jewish people who were murdered in the Holocaust, 1.5 million were children.

I learned a lot about Abe. I was really surprised that he was still cheerful and happy while talking about the horrific things he experiences. One example is when he visited the Holocaust museum. He looked at the cattle car and didn't show any sad feelings. I also know that he believed in don't hate. He said you can say don't like somebody but never say you hate somebody. I really liked his attitude and how he looked at everything he said in a positive way instead of a more negative aspect.

I didn't speak to anybody about Abe, but I'm planning to tell my parents and my little brother about him. I'm going to share his positive attitude, don't hate, and there isn't really any point to being sad about something.

The message I took away from the presentation is that there isn't a point into looking at things in the negative aspect and you should look at things in the positive aspect. I also took away the don't hate thing and I really respect that. I will apply these things by practicing. I know that if I keep practicing these things, eventually I won't have to anymore.

Thank you for taking the time to teach my grade and I about Abe Piasek. I really liked your presentation and could see you put in a lot of time and effort into it. I liked Abe's story and support him. I really appreciate what you do to spread the story about Abe. Before your presentation, I did not know the Holocaust was a thing in history and had no idea about it. Thank you for teaching me about the Holocaust.

- S

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

I loved Abe's story and it made me grateful for my life. Abe took a situation that was very harsh and turned it into a happy story and he was happy all his life. I especially loved the chicken story and how he got a chicken to his pants. When you talked about the chicken story, it reminded me of my younger brother who would definitely do something like that. Abe's death was very unexpected and I love your devotion to him. You inspire me by how much you have spread Abe's story. After you explained to me his story, I want to spread it too! I would love to share his story and my thoughts on it with everyone I know. Thank you.

-M.

Thank you Mr. Goldberg

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

thank you so much for taking the time to share with our school about Abe. He seemed like a very nice person so brave and smart, And it's amazing you got to know him, The topic about the holocaust is a very sad and emotional matter and I feel for Abe and all those people who had to suffer just because they were jewish, and I really appreciate people like you because you know what happened to Abe and the time and effort you take just so his story is heard. This makes you a one of a kind amazing person. Something that stood out to me in your presentation was the cable cars. I had no idea that it was only meant for ten people at max, and over 80 people were forced into that tiny cable car for me this was very shocking and sad. But I really enjoyed learning about Abe (of course not the sad parts) His story was very motivating and the way he bared through it this makes other people not want to take their life for granted. Abe showed strength and happiness no matter how dark his life got and this proves there is always not a darkside to every bad situation. I told my jewish friend Layla about Abe as well as my dad and mom. I shared his tough times and the way he was set free. Once again thank you so much Mr. Goldberg!

sincerely-A.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Thank you for doing the presentation and teaching us about Abe. There were three things about the Holocaust that really stood out to me: the fact that there were over 40,000 camps that killed Jews, that most of the deaths happened where Abe was so he had a higher death chance but still survived, and how harsh the German soldiers were; they shot Abe's friend upon finding out he was Jewish, and they had to stay in a ghetto. I also learned that Abe still stayed positive, happy, and outgoing even after all the trauma that he faced. It is also amazing how Abe kept going and never gave up after all the things he went through. I already shared the story with 3 friends and they were actually interested in learning Abe's story. With those friends, I didn't have too much time telling every detail, so I explained most of the things like the chicken story and the cattle cars, but in a nutshell. I also learned that even if things get hard, you shouldn't give up because it will eventually be over, and everything will get better in the end. I can also use this lesson in school if the assignments get really hard (Or really anything), I will try to not give up, and stay happy. I can also take away that even if something really bad happens, you have to face it and not deny that it happened, even if it is hard. Thank you again for speaking with our school. I found the subject interesting and I really feel sympathy for all the people who had to go through this.

Sincerely,

D.

Abe Piasek

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Thank you for talking to us about Abe Piasek. You did a great job telling the stories. It was as if Abe was right there in front of us talking about it. His stories were very intriguing and sorrowful at the same time. I still feel the pain in my heart of the murder of so many people. It was such a horrible thing for Abe to go through when he was still a small child.

Facts I learned about the holocaust:

- They were forced to carry cement on their backs and if the Jews dropped it, they would be shot dead (That is very cruel and harsh)
- The cattle cars were small and was tightly packed when being sent from one camp to another
- Many people were separated from their families and loved ones when they are at a young age, like Abe, and will never see them again.

What I learned about Abe

- He was a jolly man and always looked at the positive side of the situation
- Abe resilience and bravery in talking about a horrible time where he had gone through was amazing. Not many people who had been a victim of the holocaust wanted to talk about it.

People I will share it to

- My mom, dad, and brother

I believe that the message is to always look at the positive side and not give up no matter what the situation is.

Thank you,

- E.

Dear Mr Goldberg,

A Fact about the Holocaust that stood out to me was that if you are in line for the cattle cars they would divide you into groups as in women, men, age over 40. Something else that stood out was that Women and Children sometimes would make it to where they had to go. If they took you along with them so that you could go where they wanted to take then you had to be the exact height that they want otherwise you might not make it or you might not see your family again. There were 40 people in the cattle cars. Something I learned about Abe was is that he always wanted to tell the story of the Holocaust to others to inspire them to not create this scene again, because if this happened again then many people might be in the exact spot that Abe was in. Something else I learned from Abe was that he always thought on the bright side of things even in his stories. When he tell the story of the Holocaust he puts a little positive in them. Something else I learned about Abe was that he had to leave his family at age 13 with his uncle, and that can be tough sometimes. The people I told Abe's story was my dad, my mom, and my uncle. I told them that Abe was a survivor from the Holocaust. I also told them that Abe had to go through a lot of trouble to survive the Holocaust. He had to stay at Radom for 2 years where they treated everyone including him very badly and in a harsh manner. I told them that Abe had to see his friend get shot in the head at age 11 and he had to run very fast and hide so that the German soldiers would not find him. I am that same age and if that happened to my best friend I would be shaken up and maybe even have nightmares about what I just saw that happened to my friend. I maybe would be shaken up a lot that I would not even move when my friend just caught. The message I took from this presentation is that you should stay true to who you are and what religion you come from, and don't hate people like Abe said. Thank you for teaching us about the Holocaust Mr. Goldberg. I found it very interesting to learn.

By: H.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Almost the same kind of thing as the Holocaust happened in my religion. There was a Genocide and it occurred in 1984 and my dad, my dad's brother, my Grandparents, and everyone else in my family were survivors. Hindus and Muslims were trying to convert Sikhs to their religion. Sikhs refused to let them turn us to their religion, So the Hindus and Muslims were told by the Prime Minister of India to kill every Sikh that they see and to do it in a harsh way that Sikhs will be afraid of them. They were told to put oil on them and then light them up with fire while they were still alive so that they can experience the pain happening. Even after all of this Sikhs did not convert to Hindus and Muslims and staying true and devoted to their religion. This reminded the story of where Abe's friend got shot in the head by the German Soldiers just because they were Jewish.

By: H.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

I appreciate that you took the time to share Abe's story. The facts that stood out to me was that there were 40,000 concentration camps. That experience must have been terrifying to be shipped from one place to another in cattle cars that weren't meant to carry that many people at once. Also that he was able to work that hard without collapsing is incredible. I could never lift bags of concrete. I was also surprised that one jew was killed every six seconds. I was even more astonished that this was state sponsored. I like that other people lifted him up when they were taking people away to the gas chambers to kill. It's crazy that SIX MILLION jews were killed and that he wasn't one of them. I learned that Abe was resilient, hard working, and was a good and loyal friend. I shared his story with my mom, my dad, and my sister. I told them all about the terror Abe must have been through and how he always found a way to be cheerful and I told them about the hardships he went through. The message I took away from that lesson was that you shouldn't discriminate against people and even if really bad things happen to you you can always find a bright spot and be happy like Abe. I will apply this by giving others the benefit of the doubt and treating everyone equally. I noticed that even though some of the worst things in history he pushed through and I think that Abe should be an example for all of us because of all his good qualities. I will continue spreading it with family, friends, and neighbors so that everyone will know about Abe and look up to him. Thank you for taking the time to share Abe's story with me so I can continue spreading it.

Sincerely, J.

Thank you!

Dear Mr. Goldberg

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your day to inform our fifth and sixth-grade classes about the Holocaust and Abe's story. You took your time to set up a Zoom and a slide show just to teach us about Abe's story even when you could have been doing something else and I am very thankful for that. I think that you presented it in a very informative way. There are many things that I have learned from you during the past couple of days.

Thank you for teaching us about the Holocaust and what people including Abe had to go through. I appreciate that you were able to talk about this topic because it can be hard sometimes, especially when you are explaining things that other people went through, and especially when you actually knew a survivor.

The videos of Abe and him talking about his experience shocked me I don't think I would ever be able to talk about my experience like he did and I think that he is very inspirational. I think that it is beautiful that Abe would always look to the bright side of things and that he would love to educate kids on the Holocaust.

I was surprised by what Abe and others had to go through. I had no idea about many of the things that Abe and you mentioned in the presentation and in the videos. But there were a couple of things that really stood out to me.

Some facts about the Holocaust that stood out to me were:

- The fact that Abe was only 13 or 14 when he made it to the concentration camps
- The cattle cars could only hold around 40-50 soldiers and 12 horses but there were around two times that amount of Jews in each cattle car.
- Another thing is that his friend was shot right in front of him and just his hide-and-seek skills saved him.
- When he was in the concentration camps they barely got any food all they got was a cup of black coffee in the morning and if they were lucky a piece of toast.
- They would have to wake up at 5 am and all of them would get counted to make sure nobody had snuck out and they would have to work 10-12 hours of work.
- There was one death every 6 seconds

Thank You!

I learned that Abe had been taken away from his family by his own uncle. Abe never got to celebrate his bat mitzvah. He was very dedicated to his wife which I think is beautiful.

The three people I told about this story were my three best friends Maya, Harper, and Kianna. I told them about how many Jews died and they were all very shocked I also told them about the cattle carts and the concentration camps and all of the things that he had to go through at such a young age and a devastating time. When I told them that at least one Jew was killed every six seconds they were horrified. They loved the chicken story.

The message I took from the presentation was really to not give up and keep going even when things are hard because from Abe's story, you can tell that he was a very positive person and that he would always look on the bright side of things and just like how he even had the courage to talk about his experiences and tell us the story of the holocaust is just amazing and shows that he truly wanted to educate people on the topic.

Another thing I took from this presentation was that people should never hate each other but we can dislike. And to me I think that is something that everyone should hear because hating causes conflict and conflict can become something even bigger.

I will apply these things to my daily life by always being positive and looking on the bright side like let's say somebody is being rude to me I will brush it off because their opinion on me shouldn't matter and it should not affect me or my opinion on myself and I can honestly just walk away and go talk to someone else like my friends who have a positive attitude and mindset.

If I dislike somebody I won't hate them because hate is truly a strong word and it can really affect someone because I can always disagree and not like somebody but nobody should ever hate.

Overall I think this was a great presentation and I would love to help share Abe's story in the future

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Thank you for coming to our school to share what you knew and taking the time to prepare the presentation. The most interesting and horrible facts about the Holocaust were that there were 6 million Jews killed, over 40,000 concentration camps and that the German soldiers were nice to them whereas the SS officers were not. It was horrible to know that 97% of Jews in Poland were killed and a Jew was killed every 6 seconds for a hundred days. I learned how Abe had many different near-death experiences which is terrifying for me to think about, I also learned about how poor he was and the horrors he faced at such a young age. I feel bad that he couldn't celebrate his bar mitzvah since it is so important to Jews. I also realized how brave Jews are and how much they believe and hope in themselves, others, and God. It is amazing to think about how Abe and other Jews stuck with their religion and identity and never stopped being hopeful. I am also amazed at how you chose to quit your job and dedicate your life to telling Abe's story. Thank for your dedication to keep passing on his story and keep spreading his messages. One thing I took away from the Holocaust was how even in the bad times, there were so many non-Jewish heroes and how the Allies and other people risked their lives to help Jewish victims. How many Germans and the Allies risked their lives to stop the horrible mess in Europe. It is also horrifying to be taken away by your own uncle (especially your favorite one) at the age of 13. It is incredible how Abe would have processed that his own family was being forced to send him away. I don't know how I would live with the fact that my family had sent me away and how they were gone now. It is also incredible how Jews fought, how brave they were, how hopeful they were, how strong they were, and how much they believed in God. Abe is very honest and brave when telling his story. I also love how he is happy even after going through all these hardships. I also learned that everything has something you can take away from it if you look right. Another incredible thing in Abe's life was the power of friendship, his friends told him stories, motivated him, and saved him from dying by lifting him up (both literally and hope-wise). I think we should also enjoy every moment since Abe will never see his family again and 13 years is not a long time to be with your family. I think that sometimes we don't know the value of things until we've lost them, so we should value and be thankful for everything we have. It is terrifying to think of me being ripped away from my family and the rest of my family dying. If all that happened to me I would probably never even say the word Holocaust again. Sometimes we have to think about how much we have and how little others like Abe had before their life ended. It really pains me to think about how horrible some people in our world are. My favorite thing was that Abe grew so much over the years. He grew from his experiences so much and from the simple \$5 that he had. It is also heartwarming to think about how many people Abe would have helped by simply feeding whoever came to his door. I have told my mom, dad, and brother about Abe's story. I have also told my friends and I want to continue passing on this amazing story I have told them about the hardships Abe faced, the power of friendship in his story, and how he is a happy, funny, brave, kind, and dedicated person. I can also say the same thing about you. I would also like to thank you for sharing this story with me. Some thoughts I had were about how I want to be when I grow up. I want to be a kind, selfless person like Abe. And whatever happens I should learn to keep hoping and to face the challenges present and keep going on to face the future challenges.

- M.

Thank You!

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

First of all, I would like to thank you for coming in to teach us all about the life of Abe. You took so much of your time to teach us about when you could have been doing something more productive. Thank you for letting us know all the things that happened and all the sacrifices that had to be made in order for things to be normal for us today. I absolutely loved hearing Abe talk, and all the positive things that he had to say.

I was completely starstruck by all the things that Abe had to go through in his life. I had no idea about all the gas chambers, the cattle cars, and the German soldiers making camp on his doorstep. I don't even know how I could live like that. He must have had so much selflessness in order to continue allowing you to tell his story. Some facts of the Holocaust that stood out to me were:

- How he was put into the concentration camps to work without stopping at the age of 13
- The fact that he had to be taken away from his family by his uncle
- The fact that there was one death every 6 seconds
- More than 97% of Jews were killed in Poland
- How his friends saved him from being taken to the gas chambers by lifting him up so that he could get past the Nazi inspection guards
- His experiences on the cattle cars/traveling from city to city
- Finding out that his family was dead by the time that he was ready to take them back to living with him
- How there were over 40,000 concentration camps over Europe
- Knowing about how long it took him before he could make it to the USA

Some things that I learned about Abe were that even though he went through such horrible times, he still found the bright side of things. For example, the Chicken story. He could have gotten caught, but instead he made fun out of it. Another example is when he was collecting mushrooms for his mother's mushroom soup. He had to watch his best friend get shot in the head, and he ran away and hid. That is a place where he has the right to call himself the best hider ever. Knowing that he had to go through so many traumatic experiences makes me wonder how he can be so happy and how he always seems to look on the bright side of his problems.

Instead of speaking to three people, I already spoke to five. My mom, my dad, my brother, my sister, and my friend. The more people that know about Abe's story, the better. We should all learn from history so it does not repeat itself, like Winston Churchill's famous line "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it," I think that now, my job is to educate more people about Abe's story. I shared with all of these people about what he had to go through in his younger years, more about his experiences, and how he ended his life in America as a baker.

Thank You!

The message that I took away from this presentation is that Abe was a man who always looked on the bright side of life, and he never doubted anything or anybody. I also realized how much care and attention he put into making sure that he explained his memories in a way that were not too scary, but they were still informative. Another thing that I noticed was how you were attentive enough to stay with him and to follow his story and continue telling it to all the people like me. Thank you so much for doing that.

Some things that were very inspiring for me were the ways that Abe handled his past, because I know for a fact that I would have been much more scared and at a loss for control if I had gone through the things that he did. For example, when he was telling the story about him going out to collect mushrooms with his friend, and his friend being shot by the soldier, I would have probably just neglected living at all from that point on. The fact that he could keep going and eventually get to where he ended up is just incredible. I will definitely begin to apply all of his strength and passion into my daily life, because I know that I can be a better person knowing the things that you and Abe have taught me.

One other thing that I would like to tell you is my reaction to Abe's friendship with the people who lifted him up to make him appear taller. That type of bond within other people is so strong, and as soon as I heard it, I knew that Abe *must* have been the kind of person that everybody always wants to help, or his friends would not have endangered their lives for him by lying to the Nazi soldiers. I just think that that is so inspiring, and how he could again, find happiness even in the darkest places. Then, when he went back to find the man that helped him, his reaction was just so golden, because Abe knew that his friendship with this man was one that he should have treasured forever. And that is exactly what he did.

Again, I would like to thank you for coming in and teaching us all of the hard experiences that Abe had to go through, and teaching us that there is always happiness even in the darkest places. Because of you, I now know about how there is a lot more to Abe than what meets the eye. Thank you so much.

- N., 6th grade

Hello Mr. Goldberg,

I hope you are having a wonderful day, and thank you for teaching us about the Holocaust and Abe's story.

Abe's experience and journey in the Holocaust was greatly saddening to me, but the chicken story was a nice, positive point in the entire story that helped the tone brighten up for a while. I was very alarmed by the death count of the Jews, and also by the punishments used in the concentration camps. I was also very concerned about the normal capacity of the cattle cars versus the amount of people the Germans put in there, and the speed of the cattle cars from destination to destination.

I am planning to speak to my family about Abe and share his entire story. From your presentation about Abe, the main idea I took away was to be positive no matter what happens, and to not focus on the negative parts.

Thank you for informing us about the Holocaust and sharing Abe's story.

Sincerely,

O.

Dear Mr Goldberg

Thank You for teaching us more about the holocaust through Abe Piaseks survivor story. Some facts that stood out to me are that there were over 40,000 concentration camps in the Holocaust, 97% of Polish Jews were killed in the Holocaust (Abe Piasek was one of the 3% of people who survived during the Holocaust, and there were several methods of killing jews in the Holocaust which I think is Really bad and gruesome. What Learned about Abe is that of course, he was a holocaust survivor, but he was a baker in the US, Abe talked about his difficulties, even though they were terrifying ,and Also that Abe always tried to find the good point out of things and he remained calm and positive wherever he went. I spoke about Ake with 3 people which were My Parents, some of my family friends, and some of my friends that I play video games with, and I told them about Abe's childhood, the situation back when abe was a kid, when Abe was separated from his family completely, the Selection at Auschwitz, How he was Liberated and much more. The Message i took from this Presentation is that Don't Hate anyone.

Thank You for doing this Presentation at our school because the Holocaust is a big deal for the History of the World.

-P.

Dear Mr. Goldberg, my name is R---. Thank you for talking to the fifth and sixth graders about Abe and the Holocaust. You took time out of your day to teach us about one of your best friends. The fact that he endured the Nazis torturing him and others stood out to me. I wonder how he could survive for all those years. I learned that Abe was mentally strong, though in his old age, he was frail. I don't know how he could work for years and live through everything that happened to him. He taught me not to hate. When you hate, you make it worse for yourself. I shared Abe's story with one person already, my mom, and my best friend. I told her that Abe was a Holocaust survivor and that he had to endure many hardships. I told her about his family and that he got on a cattle car that was similar to the one he was shipped to the concentration camps on. I am going to tell my friend outside of school, and my neighbor who was in the Air Force. What I got from the presentation was that even though you might have troubles, the sun will come out, and it will be better. Having a good mindset helped Abe survive. I can apply this by thinking about Abe when I feel like nothing could be worse, and feel defeated, because Abe never let anything get him down, and his positive attitude got him through it. If Abe could find the good in everything, then so can I! I was shocked at what the Nazis did to the Jews just because they had different beliefs than them. I still don't know how Abe survived. Your presentation was informative and kind of scary. Out of 97% of Polish Jews that were killed, Abe survived. I stand by what I said earlier about Abe having the qualities you want in a best friend. Once again, thank you for taking the time to teach us about the Holocaust.

Thank You,

-R.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

I have learned a lot about the Holocaust, through your presentation, and I would like to thank you for that. Out of all of the things I was taught I would say that these facts from the Holocaust that stood out to me was the number of people fit into the carts were at least 80 people which was beyond the original amount, of carrying 40 soldiers. Another was that there were thousands of concentration camps which I did not expect for there to be that many, and also that not all Jews were scared to do anything but there were some Jews were willing to stick out for each other, like how those two men, one being Abe's friend lifted him up to look taller in the line. What I learned from Abe, was no matter what the situation is you have to push through and in the end don't hate someone for their actions as there might have been a valid reason for it (in some cases. Abe has taught me to choose kindness no matter what happened, and to stay strong forever.

I shared all of this information, along with more about Abe's journey like his chicken story and how he got separated from his friends and family and how that experience was like, with my brother, father, and my mom. Don't show unreasonable hate, but to also be strong when some is shown to you is something that I learned and that I will take away from your presentation, as I can use this to prevent bullying for example and in many more ways. I really loved your presentation on Abe's story and it has definitely brought up a new view that I can learn from, and overall was quite nice to know more about the history of our world. Thank you so much for coming and presenting to Scholars Academy!

-R.

To: Mr. Steve Goldberg
From: R.C.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Thank you for telling us the story of Abe Piasek and how he survived the Holocaust! I was very happy to learn about this optimistic and happy person and how he never gave up even after so many dreadful things had happened to him. I think your presentation was very worthwhile. I also was very interested about getting more information about the Holocaust so I can share his story in more detail to other people.

Some things I learned about Abe were that he was one of 3% of Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust and that he was put into a cattle car at only 11 years old. Some brutal, but sadly true facts I learned about the Holocaust were that it was the **state sponsored** murder of 6 million Jews and that 97% of Polish Jews(Abe was one, as mentioned were murdered during the Holocaust. The three people I spoke to were my friend/classmate Kairav, my friend/classmate Julian, and my friend Akshaj. I told them what I learned, what Abe was like, some things that stood out to me, and some information about the Holocaust in general.

One message I can take away from this presentation is to not hate, not be a bystander, and to always look on the bright side. I will (and do look on the bright side and not hate anyone, just ignore them. One question I have is why Abe chose to be a baker. Thank you for arranging this and making the presentation.

Best wishes, R.

Abe Piasek

Hello, I would like to share some things I learned about Abe, the message I took from it and the three people I shared it with. What I really like about Abe was after all that he experienced he was still joyful and was able to share that. The message I took from it was that there can always be hope no matter the situation and always believe. Something that stood out to me was how there were 40,000 camps and one person died every 6 seconds horrified me and how scary it must've been for Abe, but he is still positive and continued to retell his story

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn about him and the holocaust and just taking out your time to teach us and retell his story.

- R.

Dear Mr. Goldberg, I (and everyone else) appreciate your talk about Abe, his personality, what he had to go through and more about Abe. It is clear to see you have developed a strong bond with him. About the Holocaust, it was sad and heartbreaking to hear about the millions of lives that were killed. The cattle car was the saddest of them all. More than a 100 people were put in their and sent to the concentration camps. When they got to the camps, they would either be killed or work as slaves. The fact that Abe and many like him had to go through this was really sad. Just by looking at the videos you have showed us, it is pretty obvious that Abe is a really nice guy which makes it even more sad that he had to go through this. The fact that he even told his story which is really brave of him. Abe has the qualities that you would want in a best friend which is really nice. I am going to tell my family (my mom, dad and brother) about Abe story and how he survived the Holocaust and maybe my cousins and I hope they they will find it as interesting as I did. The meanings I got from this is that you should always treat someone with respect because everyone always thought that the Jewish were bad and didn't like them. That led to terrible things being done, like the Holocaust. As I was watching the presentation, I imagined myself in the Holocaust. What would happen to me? Would I make it out? How would I be treated? There were some of the questions that came into my mind. I felt thankful that we didn't have to go through this and I felt really sad for the millions of Jews in the Holocaust, alive, or not. One really important message that be taught us is to never hate. You can dislike someone, but never hate.

Thank you for your time and teaching us about the Holocaust and telling us about your wonderful friend

- S.(6th)

Fact: the day Abe arrived at NY (Aug 3) is on my birthday!

Dear Mr. Goldberg, what really stood out to me about the Holocaust is the way the Germans treated the Jews. They were really cruel and hated the Jews just because of what they believed in. They treated them like they were not humans because they were Jewish. I really was surprised by this and how cruel that people can really be sometimes just because they want power. Hitler did this. Another thing that I was also surprised by is how they fit all those Jews into the cattle cars to go to concentration camps. They treated them like they didn't even matter and that they were just another thing. I learned about what Abe went through, and it surprised me that he got the courage to actually start telling his story. If all that stuff had happened to me, I would've not shared it with anyone as it would have been too traumatizing. I was surprised by how while he was sharing his story in the videos, no matter how scary it was getting, he always found some way to say something funny. Even though what he'd been through was painful and bad, he still had a way to say funny things and not get upset, which I really admired how he did that. I learned that Abe went through really bad things, and he had many stories to tell. I spoke to Abe to my mom, dad, and brother. I told them all the hard things that he'd been through, but I also told them the good things he said, like the Chicken Story that we heard, and that was really funny. The main thing that I learned about Abe is that he kept going no matter hard things were getting. He never complained, either. Sure, maybe because he didn't want to die, but I admire how he never gave up. I think that was the main takeaway I got from that presentation, and I will try to apply it, since he went through a lot of pain and trouble, and the least I could do would be to be more thankful for what I have and never give up, no matter how hard things get.

Thank you so much for taking the time to present to us. Abe's story really inspired me and I learned a lot.

-S. 6th Grade

Hello my name is V—. You may know me as “
The very Enthusiastic student in the front”
I am so Honored to be told the story of Mr. Abe
Piasek

Facts about the holocaust That I learned during the presentation

1. There were in the month of august 1 death every 6 seconds !!!
2. There were Concentration camps that killed more than 3 million
jews
3. Mr Abe Piasek had to move place to place in a cattle car

I learned that Abe was a person that was very positive despite him going through some tough times especially after you told us how many deaths happen in that year of august which if you added all of that up you would get a tragic number of 1 death every 6 seconds. Which is very tragic to even think about. So If you reflect back you realize Mr. Abe piasek is a very Positive and Head-up person

I told My mom and my dad and my brother how Abe when through a lot and how we should always keep our heads up just like Abe did

The most important message that I took from this presentation was that you should always stay positive and hope for the best just like Abe did

Thank you so much or showing us how it was for Abe living in a time where hatred was unreal

Sincer V.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

I loved the story of Mr. Abe, he must have been a really good friend. I wish that I could've met him, but I am glad that at least you got to meet him & share his heart-touching story. I think that Mr. Abe's story was truly amazing, but some things that felt extra special to me personally include: he remembered so much information at such an old age- that told me that it was such a bad event in his life that he would remember it to his grave, he also didn't re-marry- this told me that he loved his wife, Mrs. Shirley, so much that he didn't have the power to meet another woman, even though she is dead, & one last thing is the dedication to his story- that was the thing that hit me, I mean, yes he had an interesting story, but did he have too tell to others, no, but did he choose to, yes. This last point tells me that how he didn't back away from his story, he went closer to it, he told everyone he met, & then he found you. I love he was willing enough to tell his story many times, even though he got emotional, I bet you feel proud that he felt close enough only to you to, to allow you to pass on his story to others. I have learned multiple things about Abe, I am telling you this letter may go on ad infinitum, but some of the main things include: born in Poland-1928, came to US after the war of the holocaust-1947, Abe went into a cattle car (infected with lice, his heart was pounding loudly), Abe went to Ellis Island when he was 12 years old, Abe's motto (that truly touched my heart) was "don't hate", Abe's real name was Abram, later after a train that he went on stopped- no water/food, few people died on train(carried by arms & legs), women & men were on different sides, old & young people were on different sides. Mr. Abe's daughter, Ms. Pam, was very supportive to him speaking, & when he was feeling sad after the cattle car Ms. Pam helped Mr. Abe feel better even though it was very emotional for him. Mr. Abe's uncle, Jacob, was a tailor so he wasn't killed right away because he did a job. His uncle Jacob provided extra food for his own family branch as well as sometimes gave Mr.Abe some extra food as well. All the information above I will share it with many of my friends & family so that they can share Mr.Abe's story to their relatives to spread this saddening but interesting story. I think of Mr.Abe as cheerful, happy, kind, positive, & has a growth mindset. I also learned that his family that he knew was big, but a lot of his family he didn't talk about or didn't know, that kind of got me really sad, I mean he didn't know all of his family as a kid or as an adult. But at least he got a happy family in one point of his life. But the thing I can't get to believe is that he did so much work & got less than a penny for all of his chores, that was just, WOW! I can't believe that after that tragic experience he still joined the army & fought for the army. He was one string soul! I spoke to my whole family, my friend, & her little brother. I read right of this letter, as well as told them the chicken story, he he he. The message I took away from this presentation was that never give up with hope & keep on going, you never know what is going to happen. I have a question, if you don't mind me asking, did Mr.Abe believe in god?

Thank you so much for the interesting story, I hope you are glad that you got such a good person to be your friend,

D.

Hello Mr. Goldberg,

I hope that you are having a great day right now. Thank you for telling me and the rest of our class about Abe's story. From the story you told us about Abe and the information about the Holocaust the message that I learned was always be positive think positive and stay positive and to not treat people bad. I will apply this message by trying to stay as positive as possible in bad situations, or scary ones, and to not treat people bad I will treat people with respect but the saying "treat people the way you want to be treated" but instead treating the people the way they want to be treated if it is good and not to much. I shared Abe's story with my cousins and overall just my family. I shared the chicken story and the cattle car. Some things that stood out from the Holocaust for me was they would pack 80 or more people in the cattle cars for more that 1 oe 2 days even though only 8 horses or 40 soldiers would stay in there, and that the Holocaust killed 97% of the Jews in Poland which was terrible and evil because they didn't deserve it. Another thing that was surprising was the about of Jews killed per day which was 15,000 per day and 1 per second which would make me feel scared if I was the one there. From Abe's story I learned that people experience pain but if you stay positive you can get through and make it a little better in the future if you stay positive and I learned that Abe was a very joyful person with a positive mindset. From the Holocaust I realized that people that didn't deserve to suffer suffered. Thank you telling Abe's story and sharing this information about the Holocaust it was very interesting and sad at the same time. The chicken story was amazing and I am very thankful for you sharing this story.

N.

Dear Mr Goldberg,

Thank you, for teaching my school about the holocaust and about Abe Piasek. I learned about cattle cars (which i never knew was a thing). I thought cattle cars sounded like a jail cell on wheels. I also thought it was interesting that the Nazis had over 100,000+ concentration camps. When you were interviewing Abe I learned a lot about how people like him survived during the holocaust. I learned that Abe had been separated from his family just when he was 11 years old. He was lucky to have really nice friends that helped him stand taller so he didn't look the weakest in the group, and helped him think about the positives by telling Abe stories. I also learned that Abe was extremely passionate about sharing his story with other people. I spoke to my Dad, sister and my grandpa . My dad thought the story was very interesting. He was very surprised that Abe could share his story. My sister (who just turned 8) was a little confused and made me explain the holocaust. But my grandpa who is 75 was very interested. He was born in the 1940s when the holocaust had happened. The message I took away from abe and his story is to always be positive even when things are not going the way you want.

Sincerely, A.

Dear Mr Goldberg,

My name is Anagha and I thank you for sharing Abe's story with us.

The facts about the Holocaust that stood out to me are how even though Abe went through so much pain he always saw the bright side of things even if it's something terrible like the Holocaust. What I learned about Abe is that he would always say "Don't hate " even if you don't like someone. And that " hate " is a strong word. The 3 people I told Abe's story to are my dad, mom, and sister. I talked about Abe's personality and how he bared through so much pain and still survived through the whole Holocaust. The message I took away from this presentation is that there's always the bright side to things no matter how hard or painful it may be, you can always accomplish anything and stay positive. I will apply this by realizing my surroundings and how other people might be feeling. I will also try my best to stay positive and whenever I feel down or try to give up I will remember Abe's story and what he went through.

Thank you for sharing Abe's story with us,

-A. _____

Dear Mr. Golberg:

Thank you for speaking to us about Abe Piasek and his story. I had never learned about the Holocaust before now, and this helped me understand what happened. It was very inspiring to me that after all the horrible things that happened to him, Abe was still able to find joy and happiness in life. I learned about the hardships and the journeys of people who were Jewish during that time in Germany. I learned about the different concentration camps and what it felt like to be shipped to all of those camps and to be starved for so long. I never thought that being in those cattle cars and the transportation between camps would be so awful, so hearing Abe's story helped me recognize the hardships of the Holocaust that I didn't think about. I shared Abe's story with my mom and my cousin who is learning about the Holocaust as well. I told them what happened to Abe specifically and I researched other survivors and shared their stories as well. I also shared with them the importance of staying happy and seeing the good side of things, and not hating, like Abe would have wanted us to. I really enjoyed the time you took out of your day to talk to us, and I appreciate the story you shared.

Sincerely, E.

Dear Mr Goldberg,

It really stood out to me that during the holocaust, jews were shipped with cattle cars, treated as if they were not human. Even though these cattle cars were used for soldiers too, there were shorter trips with less people. It is disgusting that somebody would treat a fellow human as no more than cattle. Despite this, earlier Abe's mother had taken in German soldiers so they did not need to sleep in the rain.

I learned that Abe was taken from his family when he was a teen, his friend shot, and he was shipped to a work camp. Then he was starved and forced to manufacture things.

I have not shared Abe's story yet (or perhaps I have by the time you read this) but I plan to share it with my mother and stepdad, and maybe my father or family member on the phone.

The message I took away from this presentation is that hate gets you nowhere and we should all learn to live with one another. The Germans also blamed jews and other people for their faults so maybe don't do that either. What I will do with this new message is to forgive others for what they do, and not hold grudges. Thank you so much for telling us about Abe and the holocaust. I'm sure it helped many of us become better people

Cordially,
A.

To: Mr. Goldberg,

The fact the Nazis really hated the Jews that much, that they tried wiping them out completely really stood out to me about the Holocaust. What was really incredible was that Abe was able to survive through all that, and was still willing to talk about it, and want other people to know about his story.

What I learned about Abe was that he grew up in a Jewish family in Poland. However, when the Nazis invaded Poland, he had to be separated from the rest of his family. Another thing that I learned was that his uncle had the responsibility to choose him to give to the Nazis, which had resulted in Abe almost being sent to a gas chamber. I have already shared Abe's story with my parents, and am planning to share his story with another friend outside of school.

One lesson I took away from the presentation was that when you find yourself facing a challenge, facing it with a positive mindset will help keep you calm, and can help you think things through to help you get over the challenge.

Another thing was "don't hate". Hate will just put you in the same place as the people you are hating.

Thank you for coming in and presenting for us,

Sincerely,

J., 6th

Dear Mr. Goldberg

Thank you for teaching me about Abe's story, I really think that he deserves to be remembered. I love how even though he had to go through all of this and almost died in the process he made it out alive and survived the Holocaust. I think that it is amazing that he survived all these horrors and still wants to share it with other people even though it is hard for him to talk about it because all the memories will rush back. Also I think he was really brave for doing that, and on a larger scale, for going into the cattle car that has produced some of the worst memories for him. I plan to share this story with my brother, my sister, and my mom. I think that this is a really good story and some good words to live by are "Don't hate." This is a main message that I took away from this story and I think that he believed in this with all his heart. I will apply this to my life and try to be more kind to everyone that I interact with throughout my life. Thank you for everything that you have taught us about Abe.

Sincerely-R.

Dear Steve Goldberg, thank you for spending the time to talk about Abe's life story. I actually found it very interesting and I learned so much about the holocaust cause I because I knew absolutely nothing about it.

I found it crazy that there was a death every 6 seconds and to be honest the thought of that is very shocking and hard to grasp that. Also I learned what a cattle car was and what concentration camps were. I also didn't get that some of the German soldiers were nice but I guess that they did not want or choose to kill people but they would get killed if they resisted.

I told my brother Alex and both my parents about Abe and they really enjoyed my story. I expressed alot on how positive Abe was and how he said "don't hate". In my mind he should have the most reason to hate and I find it amazing on how he was so positive even telling stories about trauma he went through. My Mom actually told me about another holocaust survivor that she heard about and I found that interesting as well and I could compare Abes story a little bit too

Again, thank you so much for presenting Abe to Scholars and I found it very interesting and kind of cool because I don't get to watch videos with a holocaust survivor all the time :).

Best regards- T.

Hello Steve Goldberg,

My name is Eliah. Some things that stood out to me when you were talking about Abe. I learned that you can dislike someone but don't hate, it will only escalate the problem. I already shared it with my mom, dad, and great grandma. I will apply the "don't hate" rule to my everyday speech and feelings.

Thank you

From E.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

My name is Anika. Thank you for teaching us about Abe. I learned a lot about the Holocaust and Abe. I thought it was really brave of him how, even after surviving terrifying events and seeing terrible things he still always tried to stay positive. He also said, don't hate, despite all the terrible things they did to him such as starving him, not giving him daily necessities, and forcing him to work in terrible conditions. I will tell people about Abe and his story. I will also share how he always tried to be cheerful and positive, how he survived the terrible events of the Holocaust, and how he said to not hate. Thank you for taking the time to teach us about Abe and the Holocaust.

Sincerely,

A.

Dear Mr. Goldberg

Thank you for sharing the story of Abe Piasek. It was worthwhile to hear the story of such an inspirational and charismatic person. We all experienced what it was like to experience the dreadful past of Abe and to empathize with his feelings about his holocaust experiences and memories. It was a privilege to hear Abe talk about his experiences and hear his lessons that he has to offer about it.

From K.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Thank you for educating us about Abe. It was a great experience learning about the Holocaust, and how it was for someone to live through all of it. It was fascinating to hear the story, because it felt like I was living through the Holocaust myself. It was unfortunate to hear how Abe was separated from his family. It was surprising how Abe had to hide until the SS had given up on finding Abe when he was plucking mushrooms for supper. It would have been terrifying seeing your friend get shot by a rifle. Cattle cars were something new I learned. I can't imagine being compressed in a car with hundreds of people. I can't believe Abe got the courage to go inside the Cattle car. I shared Abe's story with my mom, dad, and grandma, and all of them were almost in tears. I shared how Abe's family might have died in Treblinka, and they said they couldn't imagine what would happen if they got separated from me. I told them about the cattle cars, and my mom got squirmy because she was claustrophobic. The message I took from this is to treat others the way you want to be treated, and never give up. Abe didn't give up even when he was in the hospital, and he kept telling his story. This is truly appreciable. Once again, thank you for cultivating me with all of this knowledge.

Sincerely,

Y.

Dear Mr Goldberg,

Thank you for taking a few hours to come onto your computer for an hour to teach us about Abe's wonderful story and I have shared it with people. I learned about his chicken story and his values and his final message, "Don't hate." I learned to always look on the bright side of everything and not to focus on the death and destruction. Abe was a truly inspirational character and I will remember this year because of you.

Best,

R.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

I'd like to start this letter by thanking you for sharing Abe's story, it was very inspirational. I learned a lot about Abe and his amazing personality. He was a very positive outgoing and happy person, the kind of person who would make you chuckle and feel happy. And your presentation and Abe's story had one main message that stood out to me.

"Don't Hate" as well as " Don't be mean" and "Treat others the way you would like to be treated." I will implement this in my life by always trying to be nice and thinking before I say anything so I can realize if I'm saying something that could affect someone else negatively. I learned about Abe's journey and how he was taken from his family when he was young. With his uncle , he went to work in one of the concentration camps where he hardly had any food or water to eat and drink, then came his hardships, and through positivity and hard work, he overcame them. I especially thought that the chicken story was really funny. One thing that really horrified me was the fact that 6 Jews were getting killed every second it really drove in the sadness . I also never knew how many different concentration camps there were, that the Jews got tattoed on the arm to differentiate them, and what a cattle car was. I shared Abe's story with my friend and my family, I hope that that everyone learns about Abe's journey and most importantly the message," Don't Hate" and "Be happy and kind." Again thank you for sharing Abe's story.

Sincerely,

A.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Thank you for coming and spending time with us to talk about Abe and his story! I appreciate it. A fact that surprised me a lot is how Abe's friends picked him up by the arms and made him taller. I am the shortest person in my grade so when we tried that during class, it felt amazing to be tall like that. I imagine Abe would also feel wonderful to be tall yet scared because of why he had to be tall. Another reason Abe's story was so touching was because there were all these moments where it was like Abe was stuck in a dark pit but he always managed to find the tiny little hole of light and make it bigger for everyone to see. That is something I will always remember from Abe's story. Thank you for Sharing Abe's story with us because it is something I will carry with me forever.

Sincerely,

M.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

Thank you for informing us about Abe and his past during the Holocaust and his experience after it as he shared his journey. It was an incredible opportunity to inquire more information about the Holocaust and not only the events but how it affected a Jew during it and after. There were many great and knowledgeable points you stated. Still, a few key points that really stood out to me were the way he formatted his speeches in a way that he gave a confusing and unexpected hint at the beginning of Abe's speeches and then continued on many minutes later such as the chicken story which was extremely funny and a detailed and amazing story as if it was part of a storybook. The second point I thought was incredibly unfortunate and sorrowful was the fact that Abe's best friend died right next to him and instead of crying, he stayed strong and ran away from the German officers and hid in the forest for many, many hours. Another thing is that he hid in the forest so often he learned and memorized all the best hiding places in the gigantic forest. The third point that surprised me was the cattle cars and what the Jews had to deal on them, including how cramped and uncomfortable the space was, forcing every Jew to stand for many hours without hydration and food leading to Jews dying in front of others and then the Germans just cremated them and letting the toxins just roam the air. The fourth point is how the Germans gave no mercy and wouldn't let you convert religions and if you have the tiniest bit of Jew blood you got killed despite the fact that Hitler was a partial Jew. I learned a lot about Abe like the fact that he couldn't talk about the Holocaust until he was very old, he had nightmares very often when he shared his story, he never knew where his parents were so he guessed where they died, when he went to the Holocaust museum specifically the cattle cars he was so courageous he talked about it and his experience with it. The three people I talked to about the presentation was both my parents and my sisters. I talked about general knowledge about the Holocaust, Abe's past and his experience speaking about it, his funny stories including the chicken story, and carrying kid to make taller, cattle cars. The message I took from this presentation was "make a positive out of everything", "treat others the way that they deserve to be treated", "never hate", "be a upstander not bystander", and don't make yourself a victim". I will apply this by being more grateful of what I have, everything I say has an effect on people so be nicer, if I see something mean I will try to stop it. Thank you for giving us more knowledge about the lives of Holocaust survivors during and after the Holocaust, and teaching us more about the crisis during the Holocaust.

Sincerely, K.

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

In the interesting knowledge about the Holocaust you informed us about, many facts stood out to me from this engrossing topic. But some of the most absorbing ones were Abe's childhood stories and his life, the cattle cars, the reaction of survivors to the cattle car memory, the Nazi's treatment of the non-Aryans, and so much more. I was amazed by the strength of everyone who endured this terrible time and by the personal and engaging subjects, especially the ones about Abe. This incredible person survived through one of history's cruelest eras, lost so much, and went through life with a cheerful stride. His childhood, memories of the Holocaust, and progression out of the period into a new life inspired and motivated me to do so many things, such as persevere through hard times and look on the bright side. I wished to tell many people about Abe's encouraging story and did so. But the three main people I told were both of my parents, along with my good friend and neighbor Leoma. I shared everything I could about this person and even found a website, myfriendabe.com. I was delightfully surprised to learn about my parents' and friend's interest in the subject, and my neighbor Leoma was so interested she decided to research more about the Holocaust and Abe Piasek herself! I have asked them to kindly tell three more people each about Abe's story themselves. Spreading the word about not hating is crucial for developing a diverse, open-minded society of acceptance. There were many messages I took away from the presentation, but I won't list them all. Instead, I will mention what I believe is the most important: don't hate. One may dislike certain people, but one shouldn't allow it to evolve into despicability. Kindness, acceptance, and compassion are what should resound throughout the world. I will apply this in numerous forms. I will attempt to be amicable with everyone and everything I do and not discriminate. Even if I don't like someone or something, I will try to see the good side and most definitely not hate. I will treat everything and all people with respect and warmth. The presentation was heavily engaging and sparked my interest in learning about the Holocaust and Abe. Thank you for kindly teaching us about these topics and dedicating your time to instill this knowledge!

Sincerely,
A.

To: Mr. Goldberg

Hello Mr. Goldberg, thank you very much for teaching me about Abe. His story was very nice and interesting. Abe is a person who always looks on the good side of things instead of the bad, like his chicken story. The 3 people I shared this story with with my Mom, Dad, and Brother. what I talked about is what he went through and how he overcame it. Thank you for taking the time to teach me about Abe Piasek.

-From R.

Dear Mr Goldberg

Thank you for spending your precious time and coming to our school and sharing Mr. Abe's great story with all of us and informing us about this story that I never heard of the fact that the gas chambers and the cattle cars and concentration camps really mad me think about my life and how good it is and I should be thankful for what I have I've already spoken to my mom about Abes story and I plan to tell my dad and my neighbor about his story I will deeply remember everything abe spoke about and I will all was remember Don't hate. That is the biggest message I have gotten from your presentation

Sincerely,

T.