

“Assessment”
by John Farris
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I should have failed Katie Thalhammer.

She wrote the “Where I’m From” poem.

She made the identity chart.

She created the Universe of Obligation for Nazi Germany, for America, for herself.

She wrote the essay on the Nazis and the Weimar Republic.

She role-played the German voters in the 1932 election.

She did the bios of Mengele, Eichmann, and Heydrich.

She did the S/Q/R, the T/P/S, and the K/W/L.

She did the Glogster, the Prezi, and the Animoto.

She analyzed the photos. She read the documents.

She summarized; she paraphrased; she inferred.

She did all the assignments. She turned them in on time.

They were neat and complete.

She never forgot the date or her name.

She dotted the “i” with a heart.

On the final exam, she could illustrate the Pyramid of Hate.

She could provide examples of victims, perpetrators, upstanders, and bystanders.

She could identify and discuss Hilberg’s Six Stages of the Holocaust.

She could explain the events of Kristallnacht, Barbarossa, and the Beer Hall Putsch.

The last question asked what she could do every day to stop hate and promote justice.

She wrote, *“There is nothing. People are going to believe what they’re going to believe, and they’re going to do, what they’re going to do, and there’s nothing you can do to change that.”*

She passed the class, but I should have failed Katie Thalhammer.

I did fail Katie Thalhammer.