



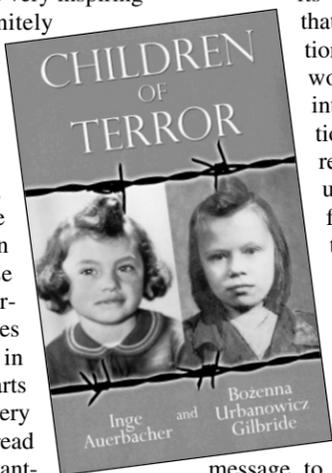
Inspired To Dance

Growing up, I always loved to do two things: dance and read. I am now thirteen years young and have been able to connect the two things that I love to do the most. I have been dancing since the age of 2 1/2 and I have been a competitive dancer since I was 7 years old. Around a year and a half ago, I read the story, *Children of Terror*, written by Holocaust survivors, Bozena Urbanowicz Gilbride and Inge Auerbacher. This autobiography is written about the two women's lives as children surviving World War II and the Holocaust tragedy. I found this story to be very inspiring and I was definitely moved due to the fact that it is written about the author's real experiences. The stories told of how different, yet very much the same the two women actually are. These women had to overcome certain obstacles in their young lives in order to survive. Parts of this story are very intense and hard to read at times, but I still wanted to know what happened next. Specifically, when Bozena discusses losing her mom and not knowing where she is for many years, I thought about if I would be able to handle a situation like that. Additionally, I spent time thinking about the Catholic and Jewish faiths and how someone's personal religious beliefs are not to be judged or

used against them for any reason. I definitely learned a great deal from this story and it opened my eyes to a new perspective on the appreciation of life.

As a dancer, I enjoy connecting dances I perform to something specific, such as real life events. I enjoy doing this because it gives dance more meaning to me and it provides a story for the audience. When I studied the Holocaust and read *Children of Terror*, I had the opportunity to take part in a 6th grade class event that focused on the world, its geography, its culture, and its people. I decided that for my participation in the project, I would use dance to interpret the inspiration I received from reading this book. I understand the need for peace and positivity in the world and I chose a song to represent this, as I danced. The movement quality was soft, yet strong and was meant to deliver a message to the audience. This would be a way for me to connect literature and dance directly.

While other students read poetry or acted in short skits, I danced. My contemporary dance solo was titled, "Keep Breathing". Lyrics such as, "The storm is coming, but I don't mind/ People are dying, I close my blinds" represents World War II and the deaths of many innocent souls



IZABELLA LYON

and how others had no control over what was taking place and could not stop what was going. Unless others put themselves at risk, as well, the destruction may not be stopped. Furthermore, in the song, the singer repeatedly sings the lyric, "All we can do is keep breathing", which represents that everyone needs to stay strong. Bozena and Inge stayed strong when they suffered through illness, mental torture, the loss of Bozena's mother, and of Inge's beloved grandmother. They stayed positive and strong no matter what had happened to them. In the end, they have become productive members of society. The lyrics that mention wanting to change the world, remind me of Bozena's and Inge's life today and how they are busy sharing their stories whenever they can. Knowledge is powerful and these personal stories need to be shared and told to others. I am lucky enough to have met both authors in person and to have heard their book talks at school, as well as, at my church. Hopefully, many more students will be given the opportunity and will be encouraged to read this important book because its messages of strength, of tolerance, and of positivity; themes that are very important in today's world.

My experience of creating and performing this dance solo was very special to me because of the ability I had to connect my passion for dance to the world around me. I was educated by reading this book and took my education a step further by making a connection to my passion for dance. Currently, I am an eighth grader; I have performed my solo several times for various audiences and welcome the opportunity to share my voice through dance. I hope to not only entertain, but to educate my audience through dance any chance I get in the years to come. I am grateful for Bozena and Inge and for their ability to inspire others with their truth.

*Izabella Lyon Age 13
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** "Keep Breathing" by Ingrid Michaelson



The Polish Archive

By Ewa Bronowicz



In this column you will learn or review what you know about Polish history through a series of articles featuring important events ranging from the Early Middle Ages to the Third Polish Republic.

If you'd like to suggest an important event in Polish history send us an e-mail. Please include your name, address, brief summary of the event, and why you think it's important. If your event is selected, your opinion will be quoted in the column.

September 1939

It was early morning on September 1st, and when my grandmother woke up, she heard a deafening noise outside. In front of her family's house, she looked up to the sky; that's where the noise was coming from, it seemed. She saw more planes than she could count. The year was 1939. The Germans invaded Poland, and World War II had just begun.

Although the Nazi invasion was not entirely unexpected, the Polish troops were at a disadvantage. They were much smaller and less equipped than their enemy. When, in response to the attack, the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany, the Polish people felt hopeful. Soon, however, the Poles would feel abandoned. The Western Allies' support did not translate into military aid. What is worse, a secret agreement had been forged between the Soviet Union and Germany just a few weeks earlier. According to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the Red Army was scheduled to invade Poland from the east.

On September 17th, the Red Army kept their promise to Germany: they invaded Poland. The latter was trapped. The Germans wanted to annex large parts of Polish territory; a subsequent plan to exterminate the Slavic peoples was also in place. The Soviets envisioned something similar: to impose Soviet rule and culture on their weaker neighbor. A few days later after the Soviet invasion, the Polish government fled to Romania. Warsaw, the Polish capital, bombed by the Nazis, surrendered. Many other cities and towns in Poland faced a similar fate.

The double invasion of Poland in September of 1939 turned out to be tragic for the country. Over the course of World War II, over six million Poles were killed. Even though the Germans would ultimately lose the war, the Soviet Union would control Poland for nearly half of the next century, until the fall of communism in 1989. Some say that Poland's misfortune was all a matter of geography. A country located between two malevolent superpowers must be doomed. It is perhaps all the more admirable that Poland survived.

WORD ETYMOLOGY

Stories of words having a Latin or Greek origin. There are over a million words in the English language. 60% of them come from Latin and Greek. The following story(s) will help you to understand and retain the meanings.



By Joseph Stefaniak, an envoy of the Classics.

The word for today is **SEMANTICS** - which comes from the Greek and then, later on from the Latin - **SEMA** - meaning **SIGN** or **SYMBOL**. It is the study or science of meaning in language; It is visual information as in the word - **SEMAPHORE** - which has the Greek root - **PHORE** - meaning - **TO BEAR** or **TO CARRY** at the end of the word. You may recollect the scenes from naval battles where the shipman is signaling other ships using two flags that are held one in each hand using an alphabetic code based on the position of the signaler's arms. Signaling is also done with lights or mechanically moving arms.

The science of semantics is enormous because it deals with the historical and psychological study and the classification of changes in the signification of words or forms viewed as factors in linguistic development. Study the obvious example of the statement: Clark Kent walks into the telephone booth and Superman comes out. Or, the phrase: truth in fiction.

Semantics plays a great role in advertising and in the computer world.



POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE CELEBRATES ITS 28TH YEAR. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. Requested equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680.

"If we don't help our Polish children, who will?"

Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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