

The Silver Sword

Activities

Knowledge

- Make an illustrated timeline of events from the story.
- Complete a word search based on the story.
- Make a list of quotations from the story and link them to the character that said it.
- Prepare a thumbnail sketch of the following characters including both appearance and character.
- Write an acrostic poem

Comprehension

- Make a cartoon strip of an exciting event from the story.
- Develop a picture-story book version suitable for infants.
- Design a missing person's poster for the Balicki children.
- Make an illustrated bookmark based on one of the characters from the story.
- Act out a scene from the story and videotape it.
- Complete an A to Z Chart on the book.
- Complete a literary socio-gram or character web for major characters from the story. (How do their relationships change over time? How are they related? Discuss their character.)

Application

- Using a 1940s map of Europe, label interesting locales from the story.
- Make a travel brochure for the children's trek to Switzerland.
- Relate a personal experience similar to an event in the story. (Have you had to fend for yourself or hide from a dangerous situation?) What steps do you take in dangerous situations at home (i.e. fire, someone has swallowed poison, storm) Create a 'what to do' poster or fridge magnet for an emergency.
- Design a newspaper front story as if Mr. Balicki was relating his experiences to a journalist.
- Make a board game about the story.
- Design a poster for the library to illustrate one of Ian Serraillier's books.
- Research topics on – World war Two, Poland, [The Warsaw Uprising](#), the role of children in the uprising- 'The Scouts of the Polish Republic', Switzerland, Australia at war, military weapons, post war immigration, the Holocaust or refugees)
- Write a postcard from the Children while they are travelling to their father telling him of their adventures and where they are going.

Analysis

- Visit the Immigration Museum or Holocaust Museum.
- Make a list of conflict situations from the story. Were they resolved? If so, how? If not, why not?

- Create a Venn diagram comparing the three children at the start and at the end of the story.
- Create a 'Y Chart' of an event from the story.

Synthesis

- Change the ending of the story.
- Design a new dust jacket for the book and include a personal review of the book as well as a blurb.
- Make a diorama of the rubble and mess of the children's home as Mr. Balicki found it or a German road block.
- If you included yourself in the story, who would you be? Why?

Evaluation

- Study the illustrations from the original Puffin version. Draw a series of alternative illustrations.
- Write 5 alternative story chapter titles from those in the book.
- Write a list of 5 rules for the children to help them cope with time travel.
- Put together a 'unique' collection of wartime memorabilia or curiosities for a display.