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Holocaust Literature

Stephanie Jeter

Illinois Wesleyan University

Marina Balina, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

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HOLOCAUST LITERATURE

Stephanie Jeter, Department of Foreign Languages, IWU, Marina Balina*

The question of whether the Holocaust actually occurred is still being debated in the context that as an event becomes more distant, its actualities appear unreal, and the number of witnesses decreases every year. In the fast-paced and self-focused life of the twentieth century, people tend to forget or prefer not to think about past atrocities.

Works of literature that depict the horrors of the Holocaust are of special importance because they serve as constant reminders of World War II, and are intended by the authors to prevent a reoccurrence of such disasters. Among this rich variety of literature dedicated to the topic of the Holocaust, the Holocaust poetry assumes a special place. The poetry that was written during the Holocaust occurred under the most horrifying circumstances; it was written in concentration and in labor camps. This paper will suggest that this poetry can be considered not only as works of literature but also as historical documents.

Holocaust poetry suggests unique evidence of historical documentation and poetic expression. The poets of the Holocaust were mostly amateurs; in many cases, their poetic expression was their first and last chance to communicate with this world in this form and at the same time leave evidence of their physical presence in this world.