

### Project II RD- Outline of Short Story

- Begin with a self-reflective outlook on the past, spoken in the voice of a present day war-veteran who is not proud or heroic, but simply acknowledges the fact that these events transpired and that they are a part of his identity.
- Begin flashback sitting in a University lecture hall in Lvov, Poland, listening to an engineering lecture, with a brief description of the typical life for an 18 year old in Poland in the 1940s (the narrators previous life) followed in harsh contrast by the permanent transition that would occur after Germany's invasion of Poland was announced on the loudspeakers in the University.
- Flash forward a month or so to a dramatized encounter with the German police coming to the narrator's home, offering the narrator the option of death, or to fight on their side of the war.
- Thought provoking analysis about what it means to leave your family behind forever, and the fear that comes along with the stability and predictability of your old, safe, life being permanently shattered.
- Snippet, yet rich descriptive details about the terrible conditions for eating, sleeping, and the illness associated with such close quarters in traveling and no access to modern medicines. This is a good place to add some of the thoughtful, dry wit and humor that the fictional pieces in *The New Yorker* are known to have. Even though the material in this portion of the story will be designed to elicit an emotional response, clever metaphors and small bits of humor in the narrator's tone will add to the story.
- Introduce and emphasize the importance of the Polish friend from the narrator's hometown made during the time spent on the front lines in the war, discuss when the opportunity to escape occurs (try and keep this as believable as possible). Make conflict apparent, that many of the soldiers on the front lines have been dying and that the war is not going in favor of the Axis powers. This should be the climax of the conflict in the story.
- Discuss how the possibility of escaping was becoming more and more the only hope for the narrator, in the middle of the night, the narrator and the friend take the "wrong train" back to their barracks and successfully cross over the American lines established in western Germany, where they both became displaced citizens of war.
- While the central conflict of the story has been resolved, include some minor details about the refugee camp for displaced citizens in Germany that this is where the narrator meets his wife and where his first son is born.
- Final self-reflecting thoughts on how the war permanently changed the lives of so many, not only through the horrors of death, but for all those who survived as well. Make sure that there is a sense of closure.