

The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship
The Scholl Family – Café Conversations
Teaching Strategy #1



The Scholl family: a Christian German family. You are this family. You have lived in this apartment building in Berlin for twelve years.

In your apartment block, there are also 3 Jewish families. One of the Jewish families is the Schulman family. Your family and the Schulman family have been close friends for 12 years. You have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, and each other's holidays together for all those years.

Your son Fritz and their son David have been buddies since nursery school. It is September 23 1935. The Nuremberg laws have been introduced. The propaganda against Jews has intensified.

It is Fritz's 12th birthday. You are planning his birthday party.

Fritz has joined the Jungvolk (a separate section for boys aged 10-14 in the Hitler Youth movement). Everyone has. He's very excited to invite the leader of the Jungvolk - Hans to his birthday party. Hans is two years older than Fritz.

The conversation revolves around a decision that must be made. *Should you invite David to the birthday party, despite the pressure of the Nuremberg Laws?*

Father: Frank - adamant that they must do the right thing.

Mother: Anna - very anxious and hesitant. How will it affect their family if someone reports them?

Son: Fritz - has already been indoctrinated with "Hitler Youth" hateful propaganda. Fearful of including his best friend.

Sister: Berthe - has always loved David and their family but is now dating a young man from the Gestapo (German secret police)

Grandparents: Helmut - the grandfather fought in the First World War alongside his Jewish friend. He is distraught with the situation in Germany after losing the war. The humiliation and economic hardships have had an effect on the way he sees life.

Grandmother: Elsa - A quiet woman. Loves her country.