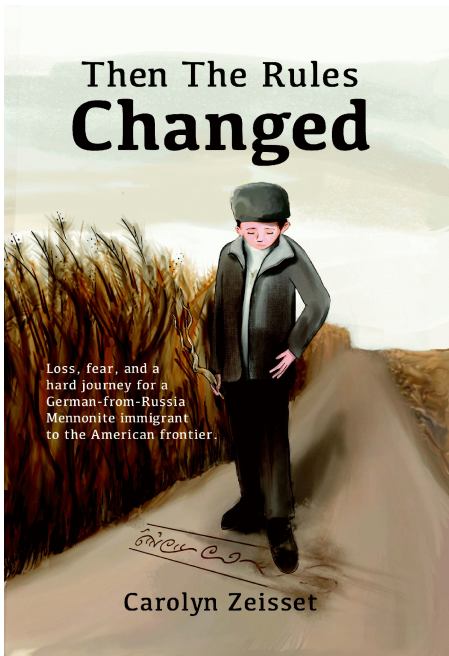


AHSGR Museum and a German-From-Russia Boy



Find museum items that are in the story.



*To You from Isaac,
Autumn 1879*

*Everyone knows how the
world works.*

*The Czar of Russia makes
rules, grown-ups know the
rules, and children must obey
the rules, if they understand
them or not. That is just the
way the world works.*

*When the Czar changed the
rules, grown-ups said we could
no longer live in our German
way in Russia. I did not under-
stand, but my life changed.*
(Page vii)

Near Gift Shop



*“Help Daniel fetch the wicker travel hamper,”
said Mother. “The basket maker wove a new one.”
When Isaac and Daniel arrived home, Tante Maria
said, “Just bring your mother’s shawl once.” She
placed it over the shrouds that lay in the bottom of
the hamper. (Pages 14-15)*

How did they carry the hamper (trunk)?

A travel hamper was carry-on luggage.
What would you put in it?



Upstairs in Museum



*Isaac’s father was a weaver. Isaac did not like the
sharp edges of flax that had to be pounded. (Page 3)*



What was made from flax after it was pounded?

What is something you have that is woven?



In the late 1700s, the Czarina of Russia was Catherine the Great. She promised the German-speaking people that they could keep their beliefs and customs.

Just over 100 years later, her great-grandson Alexander II was the Czar, and he revoked the promises. Many of the German-speaking people immigrated to America. (Page 167)



Was it warm or cold when this portrait was made?

What is a promise someone made to you and kept?

How did you feel?

What was a rule Czar Alexander made that broke a promise?



What is a promise to you that someone broke?

What did you think?



Isaac stared at the steamship. He had never seen anything so big. A tall red smokestack stood in the middle with masts three times taller on either side. Isaac was eager to watch the sails being hoisted, see them fill with wind, feel them push the ship through water. (Page 36)



Each ship had a name. What was the name of this ship? _____

What is something you've never seen that you would like to see?

Summer Kitchen



Isaac scooped up a handful of wheat seeds and dropped them into the crockery jar.

"NO, NO, NO," shrieked Lena. "You ruined everything."

Tante Maria brought a pan and poured the already chosen seed into it. "Take out the poor grains you put into Lena's good seed."

Isaac picked up one grain, examined it, and dropped it into the empty jar. He picked up another. Another. Another, and another, and another. (Pages 11-12)



About how many kernels do you think there are on one head of wheat? _____

What is a task you need to do carefully? _____

What is a task you get tired of doing? _____



Loss, fear, and a hard journey for a German-from-Russia Mennonite immigrant to the American frontier (Book Cover)

People of many faiths left South Russia to come to America, including Lutheran, Catholic, and Mennonite.

What was Isaac's faith?

What was your family's faith?



Church



Father pulled out the pottery crock of hard Turkey Red winter wheat seed. When Father scattered handfuls across the field, a flock of crows swooped down. Isaac tried to shoo the birds away and cover as many seeds as he could with handfuls of dirt.
(Page 113)

What is hanging around the farmer's neck?

What plant would you like to grow?

How would you plant it? _____



Store



Women kneaded a tubful of ground meat. Father and other men stuffed sausage into casings. (Page 138)



Isaac's mom couldn't buy sausage in the store. How did meat get into the casing?

What is a food your family makes instead of buying?



"Come see the school." Jake grasped Isaac's hand. A heavy table and a chair were at the front of the room. In front of the table stood a black stove with a fire that crackled but did little to warm the room.
(Page 121)

What is put into the stove to make heat?

If your house did not have a furnace, how could you keep warm?



Blacksmith Shop



The men made wooden tools—a shovel, pitchfork, rake—and handles for the sickle, scythe, and knife blades Father brought in the steamer trunk.

Herr Martens gave rasps to Isaac and Daniel. “Make the wood smooth,” said Father. “We do not want splinters in our hands or the hay.”

The work was monotonous, rubbing and rubbing wood.”The work must be done. The blacksmith can make the iron edge for the shovel tomorrow.” (Page 76)

What was this wooden handle used for?

What is something you have that would have been made by a blacksmith?



Behind Blacksmith Shop



Mother used her black Sunday dress to wrap the wall clock. Lena tucked it into the steamer trunk. Isaac wanted to pack the toy horse and wagon Grandfather Janzen had carved for him, but there was no room. (Page 19)

What new use did some immigrants have for a steamer trunk in America?

What is something you use for more than one thing?



Kuh Haus



“Milk the cow.” Herr Lepp set a metal bucket under the cow and another overturned one beside the animal.

Isaac winced. In Russia Lena milked the cow.

“Sit.” Herr Lepp put his gnarled hands over Isaac’s hands. “Squeeze and pull.” Milk squirted into the bucket.

Isaac squeezed, but no milk came. (Page 107)

What is the name of the building?

The building name has two German words. What are they in English?



Hint: Who lives here?

Inside Museum Door



In memory of Peter Suderman and Carolina Hein, two of many children who made an immigration journey (Dedication page)

What is another name on the memory wall?



What name would be on the wall for your great-grandparents?

What is a story about an immigrant from your family?

How could you learn about people in your family who came to America from another country?