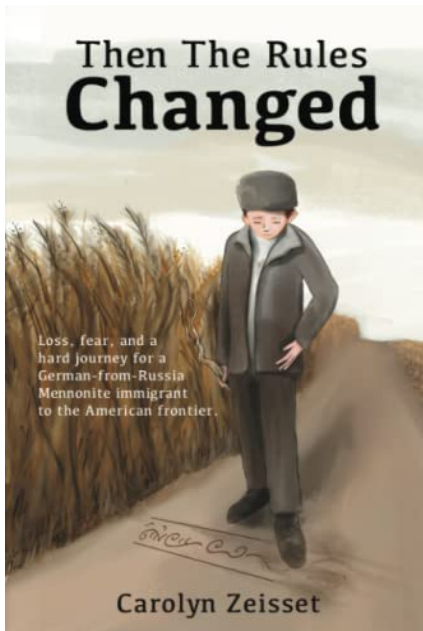


Henderson Heritage Park and a German-From-Russia Boy



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 understand, but my life changed.
(Page vii)



Isaac needed to practice drawings. It was the only way he could hope to be a painter's apprentice. Painting was an elegant trade. Everyone saw leaves or scrolls painted on a man's carriage. They saw flowers, grape vines, or birds on furniture, and painting that imitated the grain of fine wood.

Isaac knelt beside the trunk that was a bench for him and Daniel at the table. He traced the painted flower and leaf patterns on it with his finger.

"Cornelius' father painted it as a dowry chest for your Mother," Tante Maria said.

Isaac opened the lid and stared at the stored sheepskin coats, fur hats, and fur-lined boots. (Pages 2-3, 15-16)

How many different wood grains do you see on the chest?



What designs are on the chest?

What would you store in a chest like this?



“Isaac, bring the clock,” said Father. When Isaac took the clock from the steamer trunk, the single hand still pointed to just before ten, the time it stopped when Lena packed it in the trunk in Russia. Father hung it on the window frame.

The whitewashed walls and white cloth ceiling made the soddy feel airy and bright. The clock decorated the wall. Isaac thought the little house seemed almost like a home. (Page 118)

What time is it on the museum clock?

Isaac’s family lived in the sod house several weeks before they hung the clock. How do you think they told time without a clock?

What are at least two ways you tell time?



The sod house was indeed old and abandoned. Mother scrubbed a strange little stove. Father showed Isaac and Daniel how to twist grass into tight knots to make fuel for the stove.

“Our stove at home burned loose bundles,” Isaac complained when the grass scratched his hands.

“This is an American stove, not a Mennonite grass burner,” Father answered.”

Isaac was surprised at how fast the soddy’s stove burned the grass. He picked up a loose handful and threw it toward the little black monster.

“Aye, yi, yi,” Mother screamed. “You want that everything should catch fire?” (Pages 80-83)

How many pots or pans fit on the stove?

What fuel does the kitchen stove use at your house?

How many pots or pans fit on your stove?





Closing day of school was a recitation day. Lena and two other thirteen-year-old girls said their pieces last. This was their final year of school. Little girls gave flowers to the graduates. Lena smiled as she took hers, and Isaac smiled at her. She was pretty in her new head scarf. Its painted burnt orange cabbage flowers and aqua leaves were brilliant against the black dye. (Pages 6-7)

orange cabbage flowers and aqua leaves were brilliant against the black dye. (Pages 6-7)

In the story, what was painted on Lena's scarf? _____

What is painted on each scarf in the museum exhibit?

If you were a painter, what would you paint on a scarf? _____

What is something you wear that has a picture or design on it?



Lena washed the pewter cups in a pan. Isaac packed them in a round handbasket that already had the water kettle, bone-handled knives, ham, onions, hard cheese, and roasted barley. (Page 20)



Handbaskets had many uses. In the story, it was like carry-on luggage.



How is the museum basket different?

How do you think it would be used?

What would you put in carry-on luggage?



“Break the Zwieback so Tante Maria can toast them,” aid Lena. Isaac pulled apart the tops and bottoms of the soft double-deck buns. (Page 14)

“Today is the last day to pack,” said Mother. “Put the roasted Zwieback in a pillowcase, Isaac.”

He was surprised at how many hard toasted pieces fit into it and at how heavy and bulky the bag was when stuffed with bread. (Page 18)

Zwieback: baked every Saturday and eaten for Saturday supper and Sunday Faspa; also baked for engagement announcements, weddings, funerals, birthday celebrations, and holidays; when roasted (slowly and thoroughly toasted), Zwieback keep for weeks (Page 165)



Why do you think Isaac’s family packed Zwieback for their trip?

What is your favorite kind of bread?

What food would you like to eat on a trip?

After Your Museum Visit



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

What is a story about an immigrant from your family?

How could you learn about someone in your family who came to

America from another country? _____



For more information about
Then the Rules Changed
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