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Aura Kavadlo and Students
Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School
348 South Mason Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

Dear Adina, Zakai, Bari, Geoffrey, Rina, Andrew, Suzy, Louis, Melanie, Koby, Melina,
Ori, Shlomo, Aaron:

Thank you for your thoughtful letters. It is evident that you have thought deeply about what you have read. I am grateful to know that you have a better understanding of what took place. Many of you say that my book was hard to read,— that “it was heartbreaking.” For some of you, sadly, the events were experienced directly by your own relatives. As you say, it *was* difficult for me to write about, but it was my obligation to serve as a witness- it continues to be. Now, you can be a voice for memory. That means a great deal to me. It is my hope that by remembering those whose voices were silenced, we will prevent the world from allowing such hatred and prejudice to ever again become so powerful.

As for your many questions- though I understand what motivates them, some I cannot answer easily. For others, I still do not have the answers. My faith? It is a wounded faith. It is something I have examined in different forms in both my fiction and nonfiction writing. In the camps I questioned God’s silence. I believe that questioning is a part of faith. I continue to question- within my faith.

A student asks if it is O.K. to ask a survivor about her experiences. It is a difficult subject. I encourage the testimony of survivors, but I understand that it may feel impossible to find the words to describe the horror. Many survivors have recorded their testimonies for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Perhaps you will visit their website or go to the museum. You will find it very educational. This is also my answer to the question about other books for young people about the subject. Your teacher may also have suggestions. It is clear that she is very knowledgeable and she is dedicated to teaching you the importance of memory. Her letter —along with all of your letters, inspire *me* — maybe more than I have inspired you.

For now, I send my very, very best wishes to each of you—

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