



**Grade 7 Discussion Questions**

**RL 7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.**

Why do the Stasi keep a watchful eye on Gerta and her family? Cite evidence from the novel to support your answer.

On page 69, Gerta says, “In the days since coming back from the Stasi, something about Fritz had changed.” How has Fritz changed? What can we infer are the reasons for his change?

**RL 7.3 Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact**

The setting in *A Night Divided* is a major part of the story. Choose two characters from the novel and describe how living on the East side of the Berlin Wall affected them. How did Gerta deal with the affects differently than her mother?

***A Night Divided***

**By:** Jennifer A. Nielsen  
(2015)

**Grade:** 7

**Summary:** *A Night Divided* takes place in Berlin, Germany when the Berlin Wall was built in 1961. Gerta, a twelve-year-old girl, was separated from her father and middle brother when the wall went up overnight. Gerta lives with her mother and oldest brother on the Eastern side of Berlin, the side controlled by the Soviets. Life on the East Side of Berlin is not easy. Gerta must get to the West Side and reconnect her family. *A Night Divided* is a story about family and the courage to fight for one’s freedom.

**Grade 7 Activities**

**RL 7.9 Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.**

**W 7.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.**

Using the following websites and the information you received about my trip to the Berlin Wall, create a powerpoint or google slideshow comparing and contrasting the events and setting of *A Night Divided* with the real Berlin Wall. What parts of *A Night Divided* align with what really happened in Berlin and what parts don’t align? Were the Stasi really that harsh? Could Gerta and her family really have built a tunnel under the Berlin Wall?

Read about the Berlin Wall on these websites:

<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-wall>

<http://www.historytoday.com/frederick-taylor/berlin-wall-secret-history>

\*Feel free to use other websites as long as you go through the reliable source checklist.

**W 7.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.**

Immigration is a hot topic in today’s politics. In what ways does the event of the Berlin Wall, both in the book *A Night Divided* and in real life, mirror some of the current issues we have now with immigration? With Germany being divided and controlled by different countries after WWII, there was a block of immigration of sorts when the Soviet Union decided to build a wall. Write a two-three paragraph response explaining how the Berlin Wall affected those in Germany and how that can be related to our current climate on immigration.