

RUTH GRUBER: WITNESS FOR THE WORLD

Student worksheet

Directions:

- a. Find a partner to work with. Using your laptop go to <http://www.americanphotomag.com/ruth-gruber-witness-world> or use the handout to read the article written by Ruth Gruber on September 28, 2012.
- b. You and your partner will take turns reading the article aloud so that you may "hear" Ruth Gruber's voice.
- c. Pay close attention to the pictures and the captions written below them.

Answer the questions below. First discuss your findings with your partner. Be prepared to discuss with the whole group.

1. How old was Ruth Gruber when she wrote this article?
2. What can you tell from her personality by "hearing" her voice?
3. What philosophy seems to have shaped her life? How did she use that philosophy in her photojournalism?
4. What do you think of this philosophy? Is there a time when you were influenced by that thinking? Share with your partner. What philosophy do you think you follow?
5. Did Ruth Gruber use a "Jewish Lens" in her work? What do you think Harold Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior meant when he said to Ruth, "I was wrong. You must go. You owe it to your people. Do you think being Jewish gave Ruth Gruber a different perspective about moral obligation?
6. Ruth Gruber says, "The more I wrote, the better the pictures were. The more I took images the better the writing was. The two interlock so beautifully." How does this describe photojournalism? What do you think about her photojournaling? She says that the picture on the Runnymede was her most famous picture. Why do you think she believed this? What is the most important picture that you have seen?
7. If you could ask Ruth Gruber any questions, what would it be and why?
8. You will be photojournaling for this class. What will you take from Ruth Gruber's story as you begin to look at the world with a Jewish Lens?