

OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM AND CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

2019 Sala Kryszek Art and Writing Competition

“Before she knew it, she was separated from her mother and carried along onto the train car. ... Lisa moved quickly to a seat by the window. ... Trembling, she searched for her mother’s dark hair and black coat. ... She yelled through the glass, ‘Mama!’ but her voice was lost in a chorus of similar cries. ... Finally there was a low clank releasing the brakes, and the train began to move. For a moment she thought she could make out her family, pushed behind the barricade, waving faithfully. Then everything disappeared into the steam and smoke.” - *The Children of Willesden Lane*

On the evening of November 9 and into November 10, 1938, Nazi authorities staged violent anti-Jewish attacks across Germany and Austria. More than 1,400 synagogues, Jewish owned shops, and Jewish homes were destroyed. Following this event, called *Kristallnacht*, the British government offered housing to **unaccompanied** children under the age of 17. Jewish parents and guardians, seeking safety for their children, sent them alone to England by train and boat. These trips became known as the *Kindertransport*, the children’s transport. Within a year and a half, approximately 10,000 children participated with the expectation of being reunited with their parents. By the end of the Holocaust, six million Jews had been murdered, claiming the lives of many parents of *Kindertransport* children. Many children never saw their family members again.

Consider the experience of the *Kindertransport* when reflecting on Holocaust history and create a piece of writing or a work of visual art that examines the experience of being separated from family and loved ones. We recommend *The Children of Willesden Lane* as a resource to guide you on this subject.

