THERESIENSTADT INMATES’ QUOTES

Read and discuss the different perspectives represented by these three Theresienstadt inmates.

Consider what music meant to each of these people in those circumstances.

Victor Ullman
“It must be emphasized that Theresienstadt has served to enhance, not to impede, my musical activities, that by no means did we sit weeping on the banks of the waters of Babylon, and that our endeavour with respect to Arts was commensurate with our will to live.”

Consider the significance of the phrase ‘weeping on the banks of the waters of Babylon’.

Ruth Klüger
“In Theresienstadt culture was valued.”

What do you think culture is? Why do you think it is important in society?

Eric Vogel
“We musicians did not think that our oppressors saw us only as tools in their hands. We were obsessed with music and were happy that we could play our beloved jazz. We contented ourselves with this dream world that the Germans were producing for their propaganda.”