P.G SUNIL KUMAR SMHSS PATHARAM MOB: 9847166798

# UNIT 1 CHAPTER 2 IN THE ATTIC





Prepare a write up on the problems faced by the pianist and the miserable experiences that he met with during the war.

#### Survival in the Shadows

War forces people into unimaginable circumstances. The pianist, Władysław Szpilman, faced immense challenges during World War II as he struggled to survive. Being Jewish, he had to hide in ruins to escape the Nazis, knowing that he would be killed, if captured. Isolation and fear consumed him, forcing him into a life of constant hunger and uncertainty. He had no proper shelter or food, and every sound outside his hiding place made him anxious about being discovered. His physical condition worsened, his hands became dirty and stiff. He was unable to play the piano as he once did.

Despite the horrors of war, Szpilman found unexpected help from a German officer who secretly provided him with food and supplies. Even though he was a part of the German Army, he felt ashamed of what his country was doing and acted with kindness instead of cruelty. However, even after Warsaw was liberated, Szpilman's troubles were not over. When he finally stepped outside, he was mistaken for a German soldier because of the coat he wore. This misunderstanding almost cost him his life as Polish soldiers fired at him, believing he was a German.

At the end, Szpilman was able to prove his identity and regain his freedom after six years of living in fear. However, the city he once knew had been destroyed, and his family was gone. Though he survived, he was left with nothing but memories of loss and suffering. His story reflects the struggles of war, the cruelty faced by Jewish people, and the power of resilience and hope.

## **☆**First person narrative

The pianist narrates the problems faced by him and the miserable experiences that he met with during the war.

### Surviving the Silence: A journey through war

I have been moving through the ebb and flow of war and silence. For years, I lived in fear, hiding in the ruins of Warsaw, unable to step outside without the risk of death. Hunger consumed me, my body weakened, and the loneliness was unbearable. The war had taken everything, my family, my home, and the life I once knew. Each passing day felt like an eternity, with the constant threat of death hanging over me. I was forced to live in silence, cut off from the world, surviving on scraps and the kindness of a stranger.

In the midst of despair, a German officer showed compassion, bringing me food and ensuring I had a safe place to hide. His kindness was unexpected, a rare light in the darkness of war. Yet even after Warsaw was liberated, my suffering did not end. When I finally emerged from hiding, I was mistaken for an enemy. The Polish soldiers, unable to see past my German military coat, fired at me, forcing me to flee back into the attic. Just as I was on the verge of freedom, war's cruelty still had its grip on me.

When the war came to an end, the city was finally free, I stepped out into the ruins of what was once my home. The streets were empty, my family was gone, and nothing remained but memories of loss and survival. Though I had endured the horrors of war, I was left with nothing but my music and the hope that I could rebuild. The suffering had not broken me, but it had changed me forever. I walked through the city, determined to start again, carrying the weight of those who had not lived to see this day.

# **\*CHARACTER SKETCH**

#### The Pianist

The pianist, Władysław Szpilman, is a thin and weak man, worn down by years of hiding and hunger. His dirty hands and long nails show how he has struggled to survive. Despite this, he is resilient and determined, refusing to leave his hiding place even when offered safety. His talent and passion for music remain strong,

though he has not played in years. He represents the suffering of Jewish people during World War II, yet his survival highlights hope, endurance, and unexpected kindness in dark times.

#### The German Officer

The German officer, though part of the opponent forces, is kind and generous and was faced with inner turmoil. He provides food and shelter for Szpilman, showing compassion despite being a soldier. He seemed to be a lover of music. He feels ashamed of his country's actions and believes the war should end soon. His presence in the story challenges the idea that all German soldiers were cruel, proving that humanity can exist even in war. His help ensures Szpilman's survival, demonstrating how small acts of kindness can change lives.

## **☆**DIARY ENTRY

The pianist writes a diary on the day he became free at the end of the second world war. Write the likely diary for him.

January 16, 1945 10 pm **Tuesday** 

What an unbelievable day, I can't pendown my emotions now. overwhelmed by the moments of freedom. It's oozing down to my lonely life. I walked through the ruined streets of Warsaw, finally free after years of hiding. The city I once knew is gone, reduced to rubble, and with it, my family and the life I had before the war. I am alive, but I feel the weight of loneliness pressing down on me. There were only silence around me, yet the voices of those lost echo in my mind. I must rebuild, though I have nothing but my memories and my music. The piano will be my refuge once again, the only thing that remains untouched by war. Tomorrow, I will try to start anew, carrying the burden of survival and the hope of playing for the world once more.

☆Prepare an EVENT INVITATION

for the Anti War Campaign going to be conducted in your school.

### ABC School, AJ Nagar ANTI WAR CAMPAIGN

Respected Teachers, Parents, and Students,

The ABC School is organising an Anti-War Campaign on 25th June 2025 at the school auditorium to raise awareness against war and promote peace. The program will be inaugurated by the Hon: President of Panchayat Mr. Rajeev R at 10am. The Literary Club of our school is hosting the program which aims at educating everyone about the need for a peaceful future. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the program.

Rahul.R

Convenor

AJ Nagar. 10 June 2025.

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