

*SCO 6.3 examine significant moral and ethical issues related to the Second World War*

Read the following first-hand accounts from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Holocaust and complete the questions that follow. You only have to complete questions on **ONE** of the readings.

### **#1 Testimony of Toshiko Saeki**

*Ms. Toshiko Saeki was 26 at the time of the bombing. She was at her parents' home in Yasufuruichi with her children. Returning to Hiroshima on the afternoon of August 6th, she searched for her other relatives for many days, but wasn't able to find them. Ms. Saeki lost thirteen members of her family in the Atomic-bomb attack.*

INTERVIEWER: "What was it like then in Hiroshima?"

SAEKI: "The whole town of Hiroshima was just in a mess. People were trying to find shelter, shelter elementary school building, anywhere. When I reached the local elementary school, people were even jammed in the hallways. Everywhere was filled with mourns and groans and sobs and cries. Those of us who could move around were not treated the injured, but we were carrying dead bodies out of the building. I couldn't identify people by their faces. Trying to find my family, I had to take a look at their clothing, the clothes of the people who were still in the building. I couldn't find any of my family, so I went out to the playground. There were four piles of bodies and I stood in front of them. I just didn't know what to do. How could I find the bodies of my beloved ones. When I was going through the classrooms, I could take a look at each person, but these were mounds. If I tried to find my beloved ones, I would have to remove the bodies one by one. It just wasn't possible. I really felt sad. There were all kinds of bodies in the mounds. Not only human bodies but bodies of birds, cats and dogs and even that of a cow. It looked horrible. I can't find words to describe it. They were burned, just like human bodies, and some of them were half burnt. There was even a swollen horse. Just everything was there, everything."



*A man looks out over the destruction at Hiroshima*

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### **Document Analysis**

1. What is the origin of this document?
  - a) Journal
  - b) Memoir
  - c) Novel
  - d) Testimony
  
2. Why was this document created?
  - a) To create feelings of mistrust towards the Americans
  - b) To make the American's feel guilty
  - c) To promote awareness and remembrance of this tragedy
  - d) To promote the use of weapons of mass destruction
  
3. Who is the intended audience for this document?
  - a) Americans
  - b) Children
  - c) Japanese
  - d) All Adults
  
4. Examine the visual on the previous page. What does it say about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
  - a) It caused mass destruction and loss of life
  - b) It did not affect the Japanese people very much
  - c) It only killed soldiers fighting in the war
  - d) It was a good decision by the American president
  
5. What event led to the Americans' decision to bomb the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
  - a) Allies landing on the beaches of Normandy
  - b) German bombing of London
  - c) Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour
  - d) Japanese invasion of China

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6. What does the testimony reveal about the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

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7. If you were to have a conversation with Toshiko Saeki, what questions would you ask?

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8. Was the United States justified in using atomic weapons to bring about an end to the war in the Pacific? Explain your position.

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