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**Night Crossing- Movie Guide**

Before the internet could help you assemble or build practically anything, in a place with little hope, two families decided to use their skills and knowhow to build a hot air balloon in order to escape East Germany for West Germany. Did they make it? This movie is based on a true story and helps you connect with the human side of the communist controlled East Germany.

**Directions***:* Thoughtfully answer the following questions. Complete the learning reflection only after completing the movie. The questions are in order, but are not about “one” scene or part. Follow the movie, the questions will make sense.

**Character Guide:**

Peter and Doris Strelzyk= main characters

* Frank Strelzyk (older son)
* Fitscher Strelzyk (younger son)

Gϋnter and Petra Wentzel

* Peter and Andreas (children)

East German Secret Police= Stasi (SS)

**Questions:**

1. Describe the mood and conditions of East Germany. (be specific and/or give evidence when needed)
2. Describe how the movie shows the border being protected. What items are in place to stop and catch citizens trying to leave East Germany?
3. Every character reacts differently to the news that Lukas Keller was killed trying to escape East Germany. Which character/reaction do you most empathize with and why? Show that you understand the history of the time period in your response.
4. Describe the plan to escape East Germany. Explain the reasons why it is important for them to leave, even though they have jobs, houses, etc.
5. The first attempt doesn’t end with success. What is their reason for trying again? (or at least the most pressing reason!)
6. Trace how the SS worked to track down the families.
7. Why would the SS spend so much time trying to stop 8 people from leaving East Germany, especially when their plan is so dangerous and they will likely not make it anyway? Describe at least two reasons, each showing you understand the history of the time period.
8. Did they make it out of East Germany and into West Germany?

**Reflection of Learning:**

How well do I understand the following material based on the following scale:

**4**= I understand and could explain it to others, **3**= I understand but cannot find the words to explain it to others , **2**= I need more practice and/or to check answers, **1**= I don’t understand this concept yet

\_\_\_\_\_ Life under Communist Control

\_\_\_\_\_ political push factors of migration

\_\_\_\_\_ protections (to keep people in) at the East German border

\_\_\_\_\_ life before the internet!