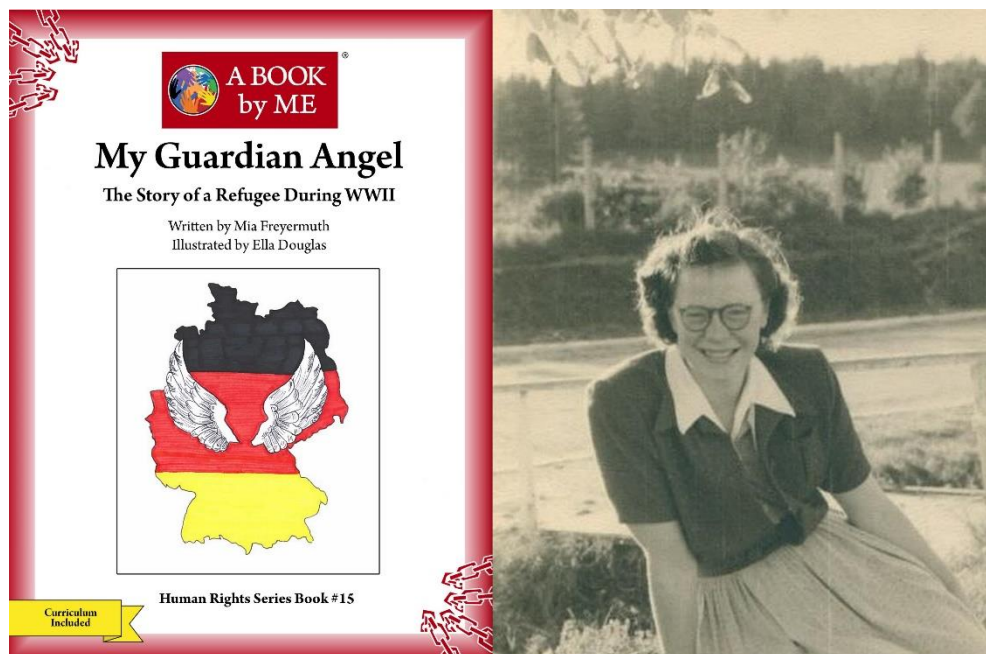


My Guardian Angel Reader's Theater

Based on the book by Mia Freyermuth
& Ella Douglas

This title found in Social Justice Superstars book set
at understandingworks.org



#refugee

Cast:

Narrator 1

Eva Apathy

Narrator 2

Sandor Apathy

Narrator 3

Author Mia Freyermuth

Guardian Angel

Hungarian Eva Apathy and her husband were in Nazi Germany where he served as a doctor. Her greatest fear was losing their papers which proved they were not Jewish and being sent to a concentration camp. After the war, they came to America as refugees. Eva's story touches the hearts of young readers, especially those who have struggled themselves.



Eva Apathy with author Mia Freyermuth and illustrator Ella Douglas

Scene 1

Hungary in Eastern Europe

Narrator 1: This is a story of a beautiful little girl named Eva who was born in difficult circumstances in Hungary. The people of her country had a horrible time in World War One. Her father had run off before she was even born and her mother was sickly and died of tuberculosis when she was two years old. Life was very hard for Eva growing up. She didn't feel loved or wanted by any of her relatives. There were times she didn't know where her next meal was coming from.

My Guardian Angel: I am Eva's guardian angel and I was assigned to her before she was even born. Things are not easy in the part of the world where Eva lives and her life is just a little bit harder than any other child in her city. I'm there when she feels like giving up or when she needs a hug and no one cares enough to do it. My invisible hands reach out to her. She feels alone and has no idea I'm here but I never leave her. It's my job to protect her.

Eva Apathy: I've always wanted to go to an orphanage where other children could be my friends. They would understand how I feel not having a mother or a father. No one, not my aunts or uncles or my grandparents want to love and take care of me. I believe my guardian angel sent a good man to protect me and give me hope. Sandor is my knight in shining armor who helps me realize my potential, despite my horrible childhood.

Narrator 2: Eva's guardian angel nudged Sandor to tell her to get out of her uncle's home. The uncle had a serious drinking problem and was both physically and verbally abusive. Eva, using all the courage she could muster, approached a man known for giving scholarships and asked for his help. This is how she received the money to attend college to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. Her uncle found out she had asked for help and threw her things on the lawn and told her if she left, she should never come back.

Eva Apathy: My first job was teaching children in the mountains of Romania, another country in Eastern Europe. The school was poor but the children were wonderful and I loved them. We could hear the bombs going off and shots being fired from the Russians across the border. World War Two had started and it was so close to home.

Scene 2

Nazi Germany

Sandor Apathy: I love Eva with all my heart and I took her for my wife when she was twenty years old. We got married in November of 1944 and soon we moved to Germany so I could help in the medical field since the war was in full swing. At our housing complex, the Nazi soldiers sometimes watched as my wife and the other women bathed. The women were so humiliated and afraid. I was very angry.

Eva Apathy: My husband and I were traveling by train when we saw people in the train car ahead of us jumping out the windows. An American bomber aircraft was circling to come back again and drop another bomb. My husband Sandor took my hand and we jumped together off that train leaving our belongings behind. Thankfully, we picked up our papers before we jumped because they proved we had no Jewish blood. The Nazis hated the Jews and were famous for killing them. Lying there on the ground beside my husband, there were bullets landing so close to us that it fluttered the leaves nearby.

Sandor Apathy: We got word that the Allies had won the war. I talked to my family in Hungary who told us not to come back. They felt we might be seen as traitors since we had lived in Germany during the war. Our only option was to go to a Displaced Persons camp in Bavaria, Germany where I served as camp physician. We spent six long years there and this is where we had our first child. Eva and I were thankful our lives had been spared and I too sensed we had a guardian angel on our side.

Eva Apathy: America opened her gates to war refugees and mostly Jewish survivors came to the United States because they had sponsors. Eventually, we found a sponsor too. There were delays because my husband Sandor got sick. They thought he had scarlet fever, and then I was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to spend a year in isolation because I was contagious. I was so lonely so my husband bought me a radio on the black market to keep me company. I listened to the Nuremberg trials that were happening in Germany.

Narrator 3: The Nuremberg trials were held by the Allied forces after World War Two ended. These trials were most notable for the prosecution of prominent members of the political, military, judicial, and economic leadership of the Nazi party. These horrible people were the ones who planned and carried out the war crimes during the horrors of the Holocaust where innocent Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, and people with mental or physical disabilities were put to death.

Scene 3

Immigration to America

Eva Apathy: I'll never forget what it was like to leave Europe behind and start fresh in America. We immigrated to Pennsylvania on March 26, 1951. We had to learn to speak English and Sandor had to take his medical exams in English too. We moved to Illinois where he practiced medicine and we had a happy life with four wonderful children, great friends and my guardian angel watching over me. Later we moved to Iowa and our children Andy and Judy were with me and my angel when my husband passed away leaving me a widow.

Author Mia Freyermuth: I'm Mia Freyermuth the author of this wonderful book about Eva and Sandor. I was in the 8th grade when Ella Douglas, who worked with me on this book, and I met Eva and her daughter Judy. After hearing their story, it became real how difficult their lives had been. From the start, Eva had such a caring, positive attitude toward us. We really wanted to do a good job preserving her story for young readers. I hope our efforts inspire another young author to capture a story that will touch young readers around the world.

Eva Apathy: I wish my husband Sandor could have seen the girl's book about our lives surviving our war time in Nazi Germany. I hope my story inspires a young person who is going through a difficult time. I advise you to never let your head hang down. Keep looking up and watch for your guardian angel to guide you to a safer and more loving tomorrow.