

**I want to go home !** By E. Bormann (Rina's great-grandmother) (approximately 1945-1948)  
translated from German and adapted by Paul Brehmer and Thimon Poppe

Eva Bormann was a refugee from Danzig who was brought to the Oksbøl Refugee Camp after Danzig had become Polish and all ethnic Germans had to leave.

The Oksbøl Refugee Camp was the largest camp for German Refugees in Denmark after World War II.

**Name: Jana**

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This is the refugee's comfort

On Holy Advent

We need to be humble

*humble: vernederen, bescheiden*

Even if our homesickness makes us grumble

*grumble: mopperen*

5 Oh **Danzig**, oh my **Danzig**!

I love you so much

The towers, gate and gable

*gable: geveltop, Giebel*

The great, great sea!

10

I want to go home !

I would not want to drive

I would walk the whole way

And everybody who'd ask,

15 They should know; I want to see **Danzig**.

I want to be at the Vistula again

*Vistula: Weichsel, the largest river in Poland*

The Mottlau, the Radaune lakes,

*Mottlau: a river in Poland*

It could cure my pains,

That would be wonderful, great

20 The old crane portal I want to greet

*crane portal: Kraan, Krantor*

The proud towers I want to see

Well, I had to part

And go far away

25 I want to walk through **Danzig's** streets

Also go to Sopot once.

*Sopot: a seaside resort close to Danzig*

I would step through the widths

then I'd be happy, I would be home

30 I know it (Danzig) wouldn't be the same.

The beautiful **Danzig** in the North

I am craving for with pain

*to crave: hunker naar, sich nach etw. sehnen*

Unforgettable, it will exist in its old pride

In the ray of sunshine in front of my eyes

My **Danzig**, Baltic pearl.

*Baltic Sea: Oostzee, Ostsee*

35 I will always see you the way

You used to be

I would not want to drive

I would walk the whole way

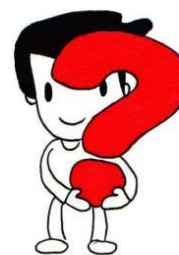
40 I would not resent my fate

*resent: aanstoot nemen fate: lot*

If I could only see you soon

You, my precious fateful home  
**Danzig;** city of glory and fame  
To me you will always be the same  
45 And I mean for the rest of my life

*fateful: noodlottig*



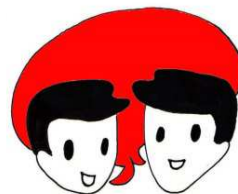
### Think (3 minutes)

- 1.) Pre -reading: Describe how you feel about your hometown. How is it part of your identity? How would you feel if you were forced to leave it? Write down a few keywords. You will need them for task 4.

My hometown means a lot to me since I was raised up in this environment and it belongs to me like my family. All my friends live here and when I come home after a longer time on holidays, I feel a strong sense of belonging and a feeling of security.

### PAIR (15 minutes)

- 2.) Read the poem aloud and then analyse it using the following language help:



The poem deals with/ is about/ describes the feeling of homesickness of the refugee Eva Bormann.

In the poem the speaker thinks about her hometown Danzig.

The poem is addressed to people missing their homes who suffered from flight and expulsion.

The first part/stanza describes her love to Danzig.

The poet's attitude towards the theme is positive since her hometown means a lot to her and she wishes to return soon.

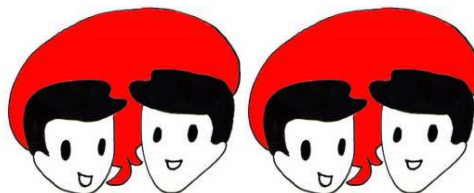
The poem creates a thoughtful mood.

The poem wants to express her feeling of belonging and her strong connection with Danzig.

- 3.) Explain the poem in its historical context.

Because of the shifting of borders and the changing balance of power after World War II, there were many displaced persons and refugees all over Europe. The poet Eva Bormann was one of the concerned people who belonged to the group of displaced persons.

### SHARE (15 minutes)



- 4.) Team up with another pair and exchange your ideas from 1-3. (groups of 4 or 6)  
Discuss whether you feel the same way about your hometown as Bormann.  
What could be the reason for similarities or differences?

