**Group 4 Teach Symbolism in Milkweed**

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| **Cow** | Represents people going crazy during the war. |
| **Bread/bread bags** | Misha stole bread and that is how he met Uri. Bread also helped Misha survive. |
| **Hanukkah Candle** | Symbolises Misha becoming a Jew and gives him something to believe and hope for. |
| **Candlestick Holder** | This is important because it gave the Jews purpose. The Milgrom’s candlestick was also stolen and it symbolises the desperation. |
| **Flies** | They represent life in the ghetto. Misha imagines that the flies are little birds and so they symbolise life and flying away. But they are also evidence of dead bodies and so symbolise death. |
| **Tomato** | Misha meets Janina while stealing a tomato. It is a sign of hope but also predicts the future because it is the last tomato on a dying vine. |
| **Milkweed** | Represents hope. There is nothing living in the ghetto except for the milkweed. It shows us that anything can survive anywhere if you have the will to live. |
| **Necklace** | It is the only possession that he has from his life as “Stop-thief.” The necklace helps him create his identity as a gypsy and it represents his ‘first’ family. |
| **Plaster/Medicine bottle** | Symbolises survival and Mr Milgrom who was a chemist and who helped people with his medical supplies. |
| **Glass dog** | Was given to Misha from Janina. Represents Misha and Janina’s friendship. |
| **Oranges** | Represent the things unseen, like angels and mothers, and give Misha hope that something better exists. |
| **Rags** | Symbolise Misha’s ragged clothes. |
| **Hairbrush/comb** | Represents the lice and lack of hygiene in the ghettos. |
| **Rock** | Symbolises the rubble that they lived in. |
| **Shoes** | The death in the ghettos and the desperation of the Jews who stole the shoes. They represent the power of the Jackboots and the places people went. |

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These are some ideas – do you agree with ideas written here.

What would you add?

Get the class to discuss these ideas – you might try not giving them the answers but using the pictures to create charts and put down their ideas

Discuss the angel statue which is not really mentioned here but is very important. Think of all the aspects of each item

Pick three symbols in particular and present a more detailed set of information to the class linked to the ideas and characters in the novel.

Think of **five key points** you wish people to understand or know

Have evidence or be able to show people where to find **evidence** to support these points

You will organise a way to teach the class about your ideas.

It must be more than TELL the class what you know. Try to find ways of introducing the key points that involves them and is engaging.

You must think of a **class activity** to go with your presentation.

You can create a powerpoint/ use posters or tasks like creating shapes or cutout dolls etc or mix and match tasks. Be creative.