

5th Grade Prompt: *Identify what it means to act with moral courage by using an example of an 'ordinary' individual who exhibited moral courage in a specific moment. Explain why you have selected this individual, how it connects to the Holocaust, and the manner in which such acts have meaning to you.*

Moral Courage written by: Romy W.

There are many examples of moral courage and many people who have shown moral courage. I think the definition of moral courage is standing up or helping others. When showing moral courage you could be risking your life for others. Moral courage has been shown a lot especially during the Holocaust.

There are lots of people who have made changes in this world due to showing moral courage: Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Abraham Lincoln, Malala and Thomas Jefferson are just a few examples. Martin Luther King Jr. made a big change in how your skin color shouldn't change how you're treated or judged. MLK risked his life to change how African Americans are treated.

Many people risked their lives to save Jews in the Holocaust and some were successful and some were not. During the Holocaust people saved people, but Maximilian Kolbe really stands out. Kolbe saved three thousand people (including two thousand Jews) throughout the war. Kolbe supplied them all with food, water, clothes and hid them. He also created an illegal radio broadcast, where he talked about the crimes of the Germans. During 1941, he wrote a book, "The Knight Of The Immaculate," which he wrote about strong criticism of the Nazis. Doing this was very risky because if he would have been caught he would have been killed.

Kolbe got caught and was put in a concentration camp on February 17, 1941. Kolbe was branded #16670 and was sent to the work camps. The work camps labor consisted of lifting heavy stone to build the crematorium wall. During 1941 three prisoners seemed to have escaped the camp. As a punishment 10 prisoners were chosen to be starved to death in an underground bunker. One prisoner, Franciszek Gejowniczek was chosen to be starved and he screamed "My wife! My children!" Kolbe took his Gejowniczek's place and was starved instead of Gejowniczek. Kolbe was killed by a lethal injection on August 14, 1941. We will always remember Kolbe because of his extremely generous actions.

We always have to remember to help others, and take risks to help. Maximilian Kolbe is an amazing role model, and a great example of showing moral courage. We all have to show moral courage to others in some situations. Maximilian Kolbe is a very inspiring person because you can see how much he cared about the other people and put others first.