The Poisonous Mushroom

or

Der Giftpilz

~ Nazi Propaganda ~

Juluis Streicher, publisher

(The source: Ernst Hiemer, Der Giftpilz (Nuremberg, Stürmervedlag, 1938).
Background:

**The Poisonous Mushroom**
~ A children’s book as propaganda ~

*Der Giftpilz*, the German word for *toadstool*, was a publication of Julius Streicher's publishing house written by Ernest Hiemer.

The book was aimed particularly at children, and was sometimes used in the schools.

(Calvin College website read the full text at <www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/thumb.htm>)
The Poisonous Mushroom

This is the cover of the children’s book by Ernest Hiemer.
The Poisonous Mushroom:

"Just as it is often hard to tell a toadstool from an edible mushroom, so too it is often very hard to recognize the Jew as a swindler and criminal..."
How to Tell a Jew:

"The Jewish nose is bent. It looks like the number six..."
How the Jews Came to Us:

"Just look at these guys! The louse-infested beards! The filthy, protruding ears..."
What is the Talmud?:

"In the Talmud it is written: 'Only the Jew is human. Gentile peoples are not called humans, but animals.' Since we Jews see Gentiles as animals, we call them only Goy."

*The Talmud is a collection of writings by Jewish philosophers and rabbis.*
Why the Jews Let Themselves be Baptised:

"Baptism didn't make a Gentile out of him..."

* A Gentile is anyone who is not Jewish – especially used to distinguish a Christian from a Jew.
How a German Peasant was Driven from House and Farm:

"Daddy, someday when I have my own farm, no Jew will enter my house..."
How Jewish Traders Cheat:

"Farming woman, have I got something special for you today. Look at this material! You can make a dress from it that will make you look like a baroness, like a countess, like a queen..."
The Experience of Hans and Else with a Strange Man:

"Here, kids, I have some candy for you. But you both have to come with me..."
Inge's Visit to a Jewish Doctor:

"Two criminal eyes flashed behind the glasses and the fat lips grinned."
How the Jew Treats his Domestic Help:

"A man was waiting for me at the station. He tipped his hat and was very friendly to me. But I could tell immediately that he was a Jew..."
How Two Women were Tricked by Jewish Lawyers:

"Well, Colleague Morgenthau, we did a good piece of business today."

"Splendid, Colleague Silberstein. We took the lovely money from the two Goy women and can put it in our own pockets."

* Goy is a derogatory word for anyone who is not Jewish.
How Jews Torment Animals:

"The animal fell once more to the ground. Slowly it died. The Jews stood around and laughed."

* Historically, Rabbis oversee the ritual and quick slaughtering of all animals for human consumption. They also look for disease and sickness.
What Christ Said about the Jews:

"When you see a cross, remember the gruesome murder of the Jews on Golgotha..."

* During Christ’s era, crucifixion was the traditional manner of execution.
Money Is The G-d Of The Jews:

"The G-d of the Jews is money. To earn money, he commits the greatest crimes. He will not rest until he can sit on a huge money sack, until he has become the king of money."

* Historically, Jews were relegated to money handling because it was deemed “dirty” and non-Jews did not want to partake in it.
How Worker Hartmann Became a National-Socialist:

The Jew cries: "We don't care about Germany... The main thing is that things go well for us..."
Are There Decent Jews?:

"People are always saying that we Jews cheat other people, that we lie and deceive. Not a word of it is true. We Jews are the most decent people in the world."
Without Solving the Jewish Question No Salvation for Mankind: "He who fights the Jews battles the Devil."
~ Julius Streicher
Work Cited:

<www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/thumb.htm>.

* Continue to next slides for discussion questions.
Discussion Questions

• Answer each one of the following questions, on the next three slides, thoroughly and thoughtfully please.

• Use specific details from the slides as your evidence.

• Turn in your answers to your Humanities’ teacher when completed.

• Include your name, date and your Humanities’ teacher’s name on each assignment.
1. Jewish Characterization

• How does the author, Ernst Hiemer, characterize the Jewish people physically? (Include at least five details.)
• How would these physical details create a negative picture for a young child?
• How does Hiemer characterize the Jewish people mentally/emotionally? (Include at least five details.)
• How would these mental/emotional details create a negative picture for a young child?
2. Aryan Characterization

• How does Hiemer characterize the Aryan people physically? (Include at least five details.)
• How would these physical details create a positive picture for a young child?
• How does Hiemer characterize the Aryan people mentally/emotionally? (Include at least five details.)
• How would these mental/emotion details create a positive picture for a young child?

* A demonstration of Aryan features in Nazi-run schools.
3. How Propaganda Works

• Why did the author, Ernest Hiemer, target young children as the audience for his book?

• Why did Hiemer choose a mushroom/toadstool as his main metaphor?

• What were Hiemer’s arguments against the Jews? Was he effective in swaying people? Why or why not?

• Where, in today’s world, is there a similar kind of propaganda? Pick a specific incident and explain.
Full Text from Page One Follows
A mother and her young boy are gathering mushrooms in the German forest. The boy finds some poisonous ones. The mother explains that there are good mushrooms and poisonous ones, and, as they go home, says:
"Look, Franz, human beings in this world are like the mushrooms in the forest. There are good mushrooms and there are good people. There are poisonous, bad mushrooms and there are bad people. And we have to be on our guard against bad people just as we have to be on guard against poisonous mushrooms. Do you understand that?"

"Yes, mother," Franz replies. "I understand that in dealing with bad people trouble may arise, just as when one eats a poisonous mushroom. One may even die!"

"And do you know, too, who these bad men are, these poisonous mushrooms of mankind?" the mother continued.

Franz slaps his chest in pride:
"Of course I know, mother! They are the Jews! Our teacher has often told us about them."

continued …
The mother praises her boy for his intelligence, and goes on to explain the different kinds of "poisonous" Jews: the Jewish pedlar, the Jewish cattle-dealer, the Kosher butcher, the Jewish doctor, the baptised Jew, and so on.

"However they disguise themselves, or however friendly they try to be, affirming a thousand times their good intentions to us, one must not believe them. Jews they are and Jews they remain. For our Volk they are poison."

"Like the poisonous mushroom!" says Franz.

"Yes, my child! Just as a single poisonous mushrooms can kill a whole family, so a solitary Jew can destroy a whole village, a whole city, even an entire Volk."

Franz has understood.
"Tell me, mother, do all non-Jews know that the Jew is as dangerous as a poisonous mushroom?“

continued …
Mother shakes her head. 
"Unfortunately not, my child. There are millions of non-Jews who do not yet know the Jews. So we have to enlighten people and warn them against the Jews. Our young people, too, must be warned. Our boys and girls must learn to know the Jew. They must learn that the Jew is the most dangerous poison-mushroom in existence. Just as poisonous mushrooms spring up everywhere, so the Jew is found in every country in the world. Just as poisonous mushrooms often lead to the most dreadful calamity, so the Jew is the cause of misery and distress, illness and death."

The author then concludes this story by pointing the moral: German youth must learn to recognise the Jewish poison-mushroom. They must learn what a danger the Jew is for the German Volk and for the whole world. They must learn that the Jewish problem involves the destiny of us all.

"The following tales tell the truth about the Jewish poison-mushroom. They show the many shapes the Jew assumes. They show the depravity and baseness of the Jewish race. They show the Jew for what he really is:

The Devil in human form."
End of Unit