***Breaking Stalin’s Nose*** by Eugene Yelchin, A Newbery Honor book

**Lesson 4 (chapters 6-10)**: After the arrest of Sasha’s father, his neighbor Stukachov’s family takes over Sasha’s room. Sasha finds himself homeless and must decide what to do. Should Sasha go urgently to Stalin to ask him to free his Dad? Later Sasha goes to Aunt Larisa’s for shelter. They refuse to take him in because they just had a baby and “need to stay alive.” Sasha is still loyal to Stalin and assures himself that he will be a pioneer and Stalin will free his father.

**Vocabulary**

Kremlin- fortress inside the city; the Russian or (formerly) Soviet government.

\*\*The Kremlin or “fortress” is located in the center of Moscow, and includes five palaces, four cathedrals, and several towers housing the leader of Russia (similar to the ‘White House’).

Red Square- A large historical square in central Moscow, Russia, bordered by the Kremlin and Lenin’s tomb.

**Fun fact**: Although called the ‘Red Square,’ the original name meant beautiful in old Russian. [Krasnaya] <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/world-heritage/kremlin-red-square/>

**Discussion Questions:** Print out the following handout for students, or discuss as a group.

**Possible Research Topics:**Sasha’s neighbor Stukachov makes a false report about Sasha’s Dad. Why did Soviet citizens falsely accuse each other? Where do children whose parents are arrested live?

**Predict:**Sasha dreams about tying the Pioneers scarf around his neck at the rally. Why is Sasha comforted by the thought of becoming a Pioneer the next day? Can you think of a situation similar in the United States? *Now that Sasha’s Dad was arrested as an “enemy of the people” will Sasha be able to become a Pioneer?*

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Take a **FUN QUIZ** over chapters 1-10 at Kahoot.it: <https://create.kahoot.it/share/breaking-stalin-s-nose-chapters-1-10/3c6c8bc5-6dae-465a-9670-0ebc64c1d32c>

**Discussion Questions:**

***Ch. 6/7***

Why did Stukachov make a false report about Sasha’s Dad. What did he have to gain?

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***Ch. 8***

Sasha decides to ask Stalin to free his Dad. How does this visit to the Kremlin go?

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Why is Sasha still loyal to Stalin? What would you do in Sasha’s situation?

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***Ch. 9***

Sasha asks Aunt Larisa to take him in. Why do Aunt Larisa and her husband turn Sasha away?

Was this common for relatives to turn away the children of those who were arrested?  Despite turning Sasha away, how does Aunt Larisa still show kindness?

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Sasha tells Aunt Larisa’s baby not to cry because he will “grow up in Communism.” Why is Sasha

so loyal to Communism? Is this similar to America? Why or why not?

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***Ch. 10***

Sasha remembers the last time he stayed with Aunt Larisa, during his mother’s death. Sasha

recalls when his Dad returned home from the hospital with the news of his mother’s death,

Aunt Larisa said that his father looked guilty. What may have really happened to his Mom?

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