

“Real change, enduring change,
happens one step at a time.”
—Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

is a modern feminist icon—a leader in the fight for equal treatment of girls and women in society and the workplace. She blazed trails to the peaks of the male-centric worlds of education and law, where women rarely had risen before.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg has often said that true and lasting change in society and law is accomplished slowly, one step at a time. That is how she has evolved too. Step by step, the shy little girl became a child who questioned unfairness, who became a student who persisted despite obstacles, who became an advocate who resisted injustice, who became a judge who revered the rule of law, who became . . . RBG.



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Becoming

RBG

Fear not, Celia Bader!

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Notification of Birth Registration

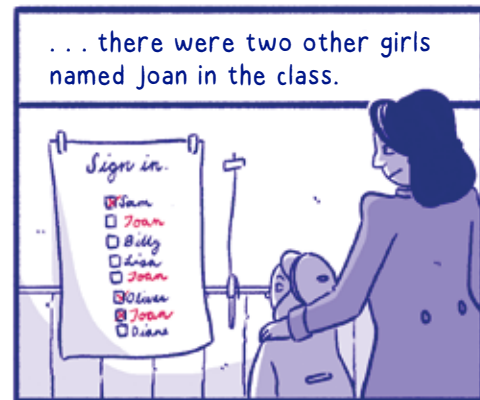
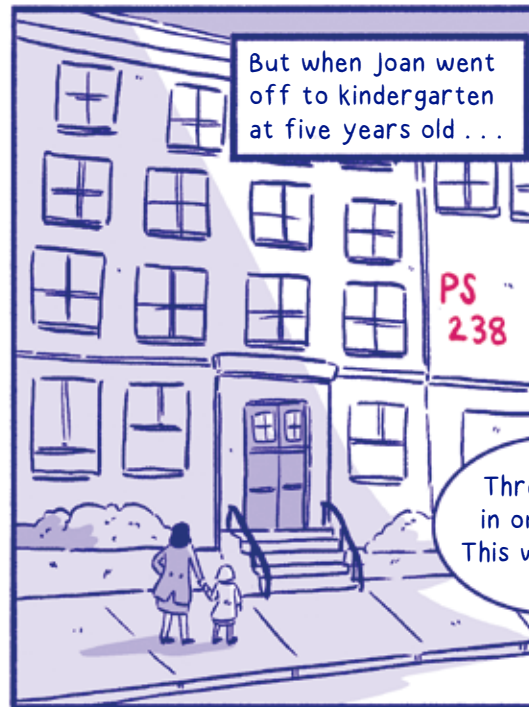
Name JOAN RUTH BADER Sex FEMALE

Date of Birth MARCH 15, 1933 Place of Birth BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Name of Father NATHAN BADER

Name of Mother CELIA AMSTER BADER

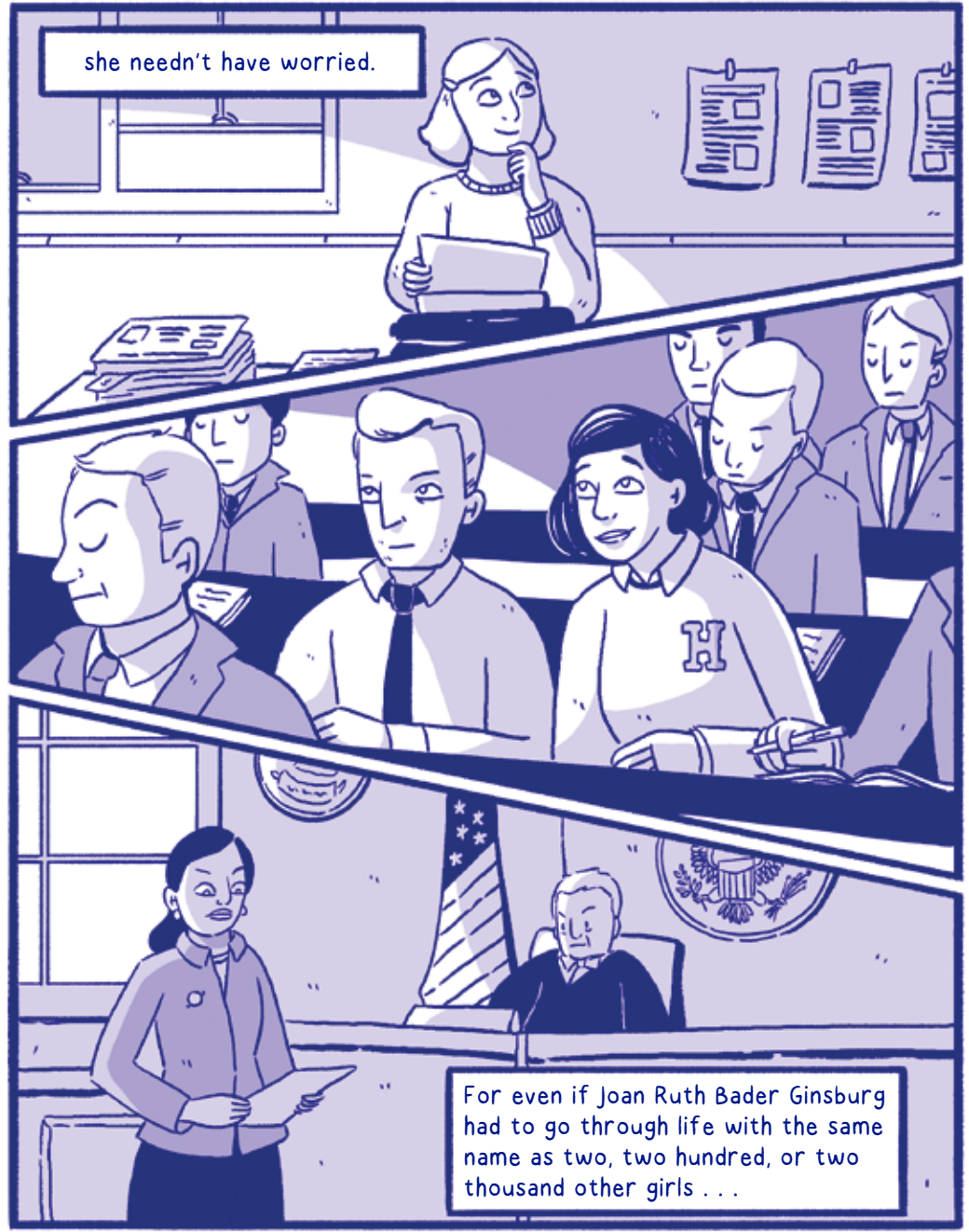
[Signatures]



If Celia Amster Bader thought that Kiki wouldn't stand out from the crowd if she shared the same name with other girls

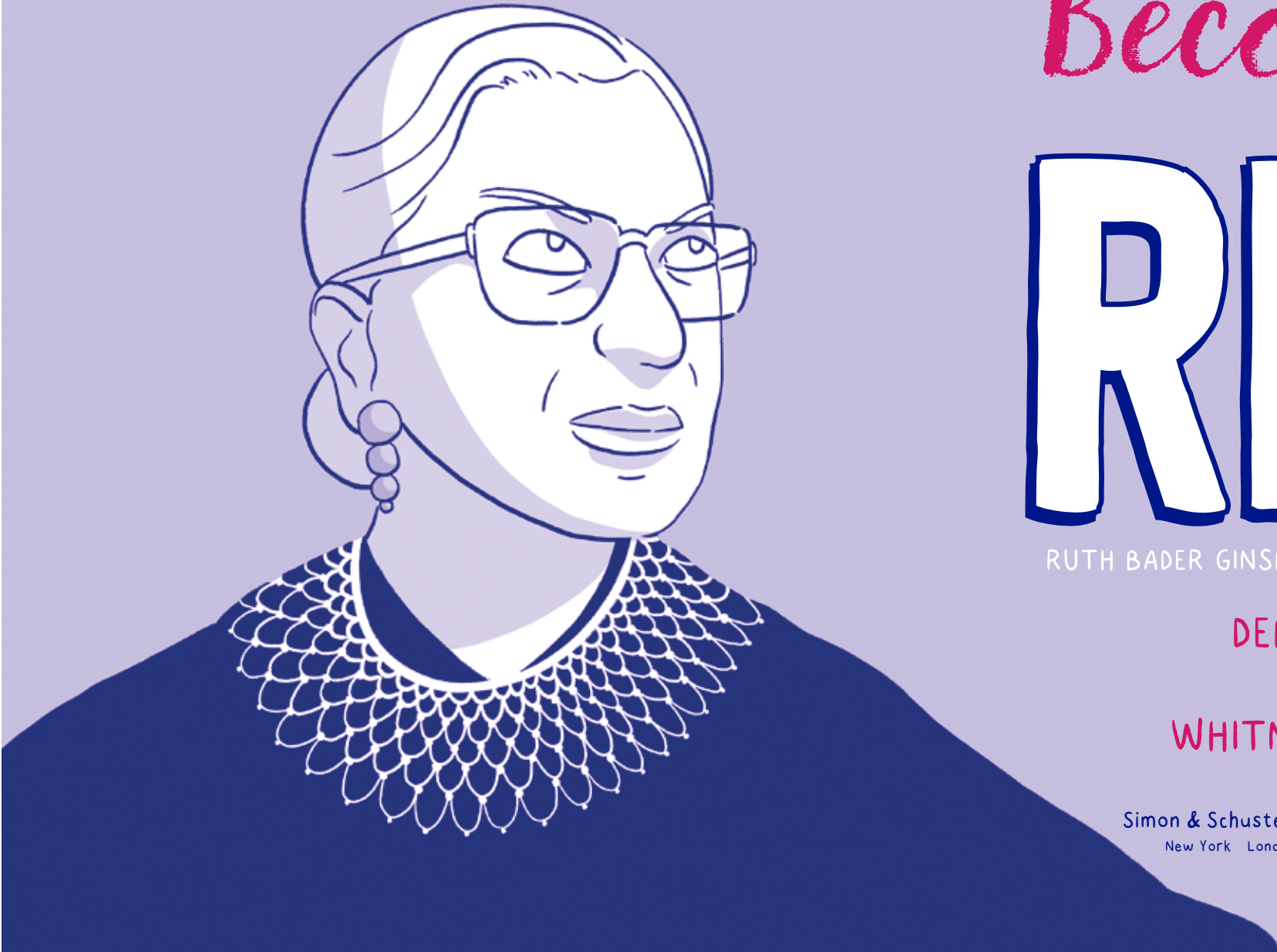


she needn't have worried.



For even if Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg had to go through life with the same name as two, two hundred, or two thousand other girls . . .

... she was going to stand out.



Becoming

RBG

RUTH BADER GINSBURG'S JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

DEBBIE LEVY

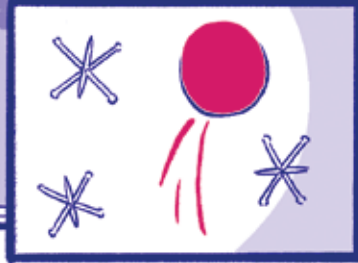
illustrated by

WHITNEY GARDNER

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi

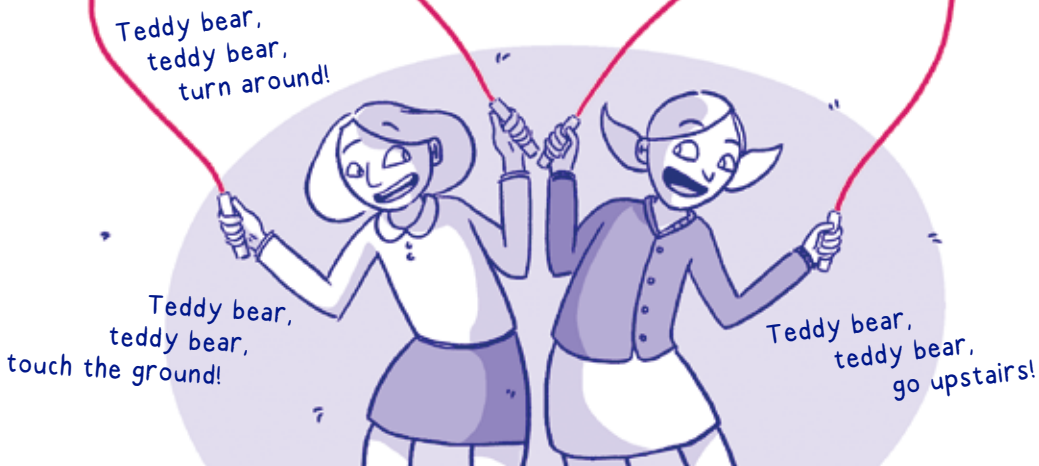
Fun and Games, Family and Sorrow

For kids growing up in Ruth's neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, life was full of harmless fun and games.



We're up to threesies.

Your turn!



Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground!

Teddy bear, teddy bear, go upstairs!

Or rather, mostly harmless fun and games.

C'mon, Kiki.

Laundry

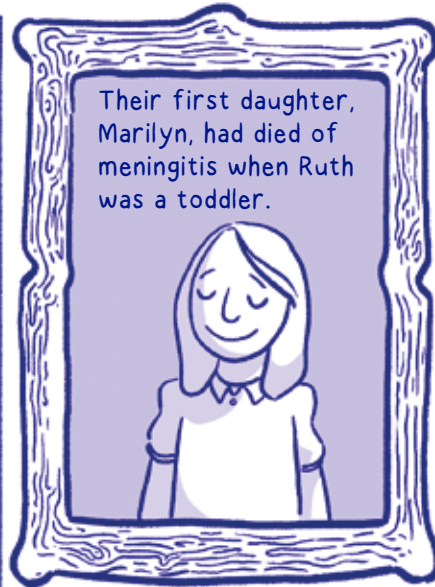
They'll think the sky is falling!

Why did I follow my cousin Richard up here?



Inside the house on East Ninth Street, the sky had already fallen

or so it felt to Ruth's parents.



Their first daughter, Marilyn, had died of meningitis when Ruth was a toddler.



Ruth had no memory of her older sister.

But even as a little girl



she felt her family's pain.



While Ruth knew sorrow at a young age, she also knew the warmth of family. With aunts and uncles and cousins living nearby, the Baders were surrounded by good company, conversation, laughter, and music.



except sometimes, like when she ran into the "no left-handed handwriting" rule.



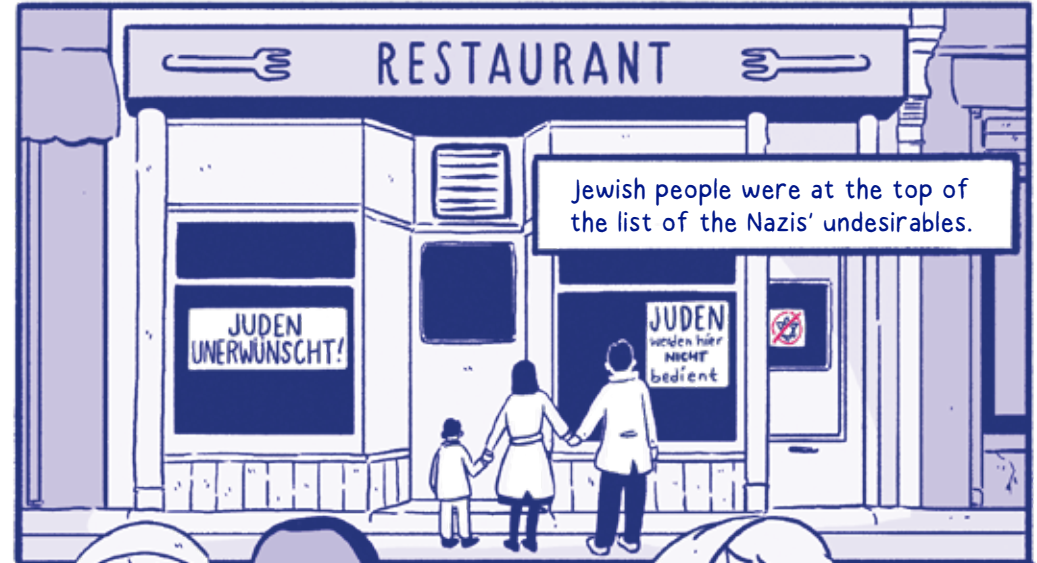
Its Ugly Head

While Ruth struggled with her handwriting in first grade, struggles of far greater and tragic consequence were taking place thousands of miles away.



Nazi Germany, led by the dictator Adolf Hitler, had just started a war. The Nazis had ambitions to expand their territory, creating a nation of all those they considered true Germans

and repressing — even killing — people they considered inferior.



Jewish people were at the top of the list of the Nazis' undesirables.



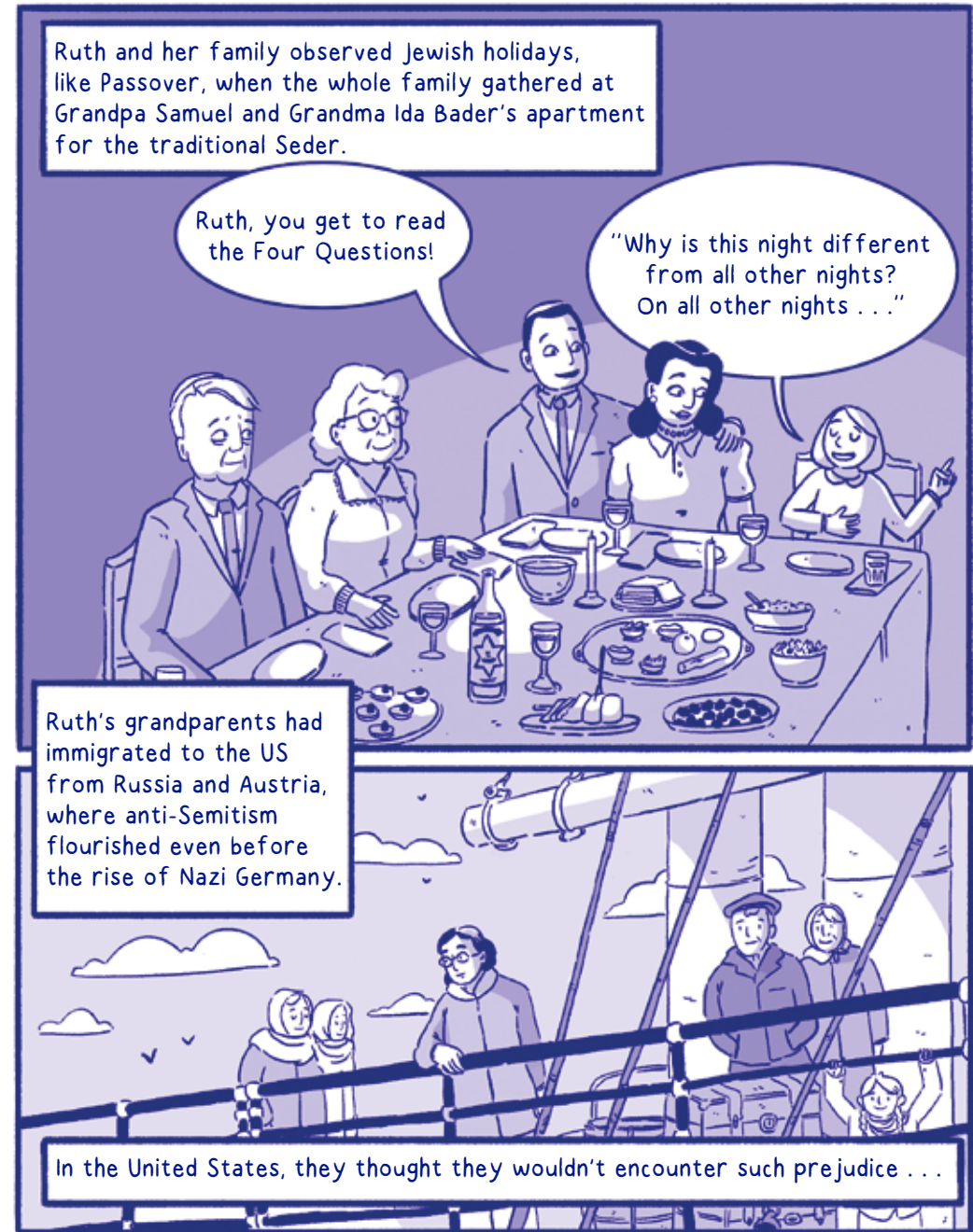
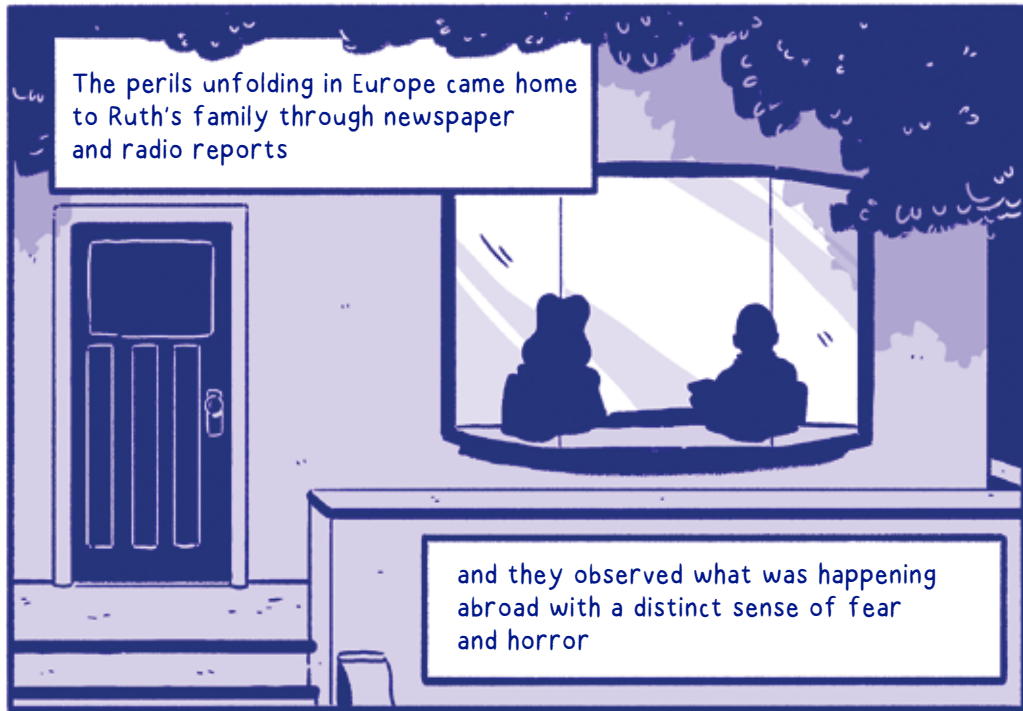
The Nazis also targeted people with disabilities, black people, Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, and gay people

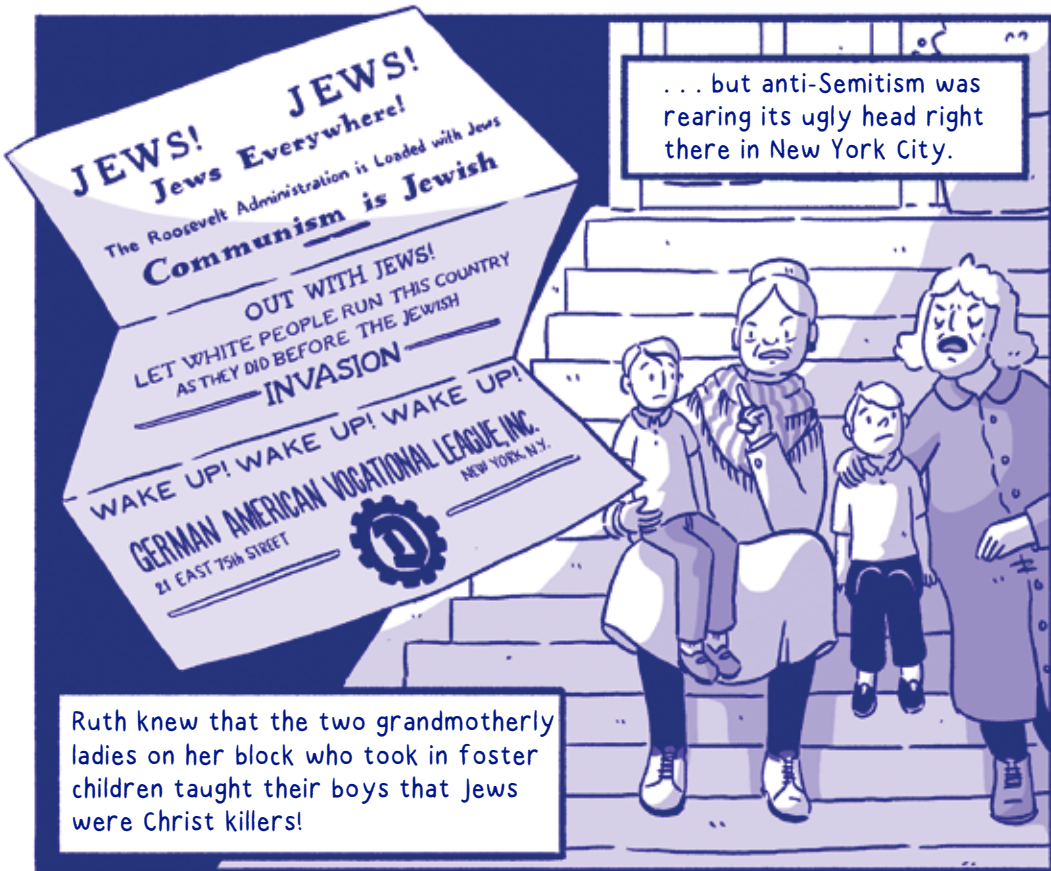
but the defining tenet of Nazism was anti-Semitism — that is, hatred of Jews.



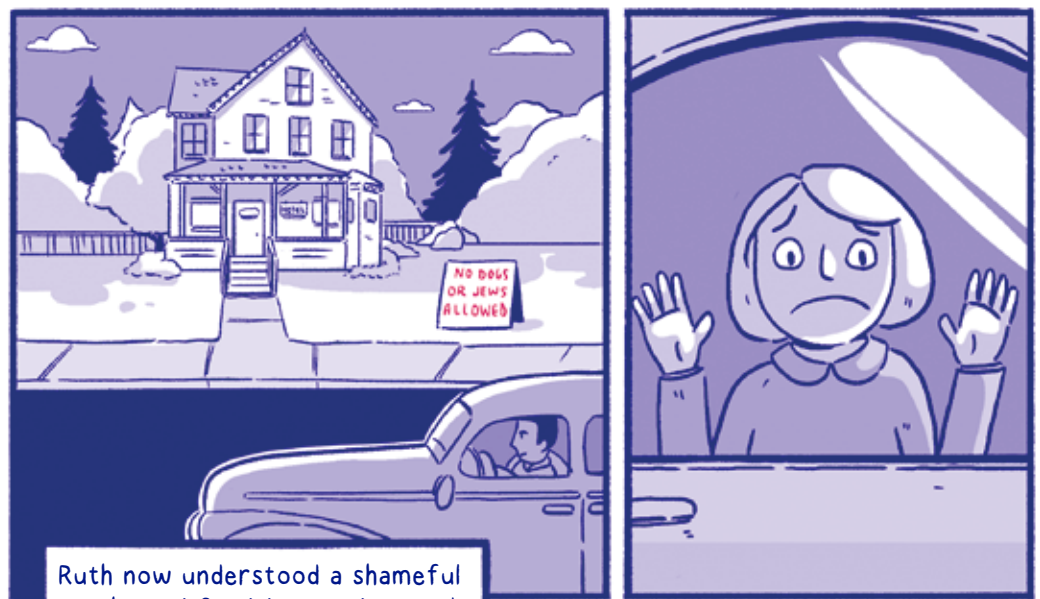
The Nazis' goal was to conquer Europe, isolate the continent's Jewish minority,

and, finally, to destroy them.

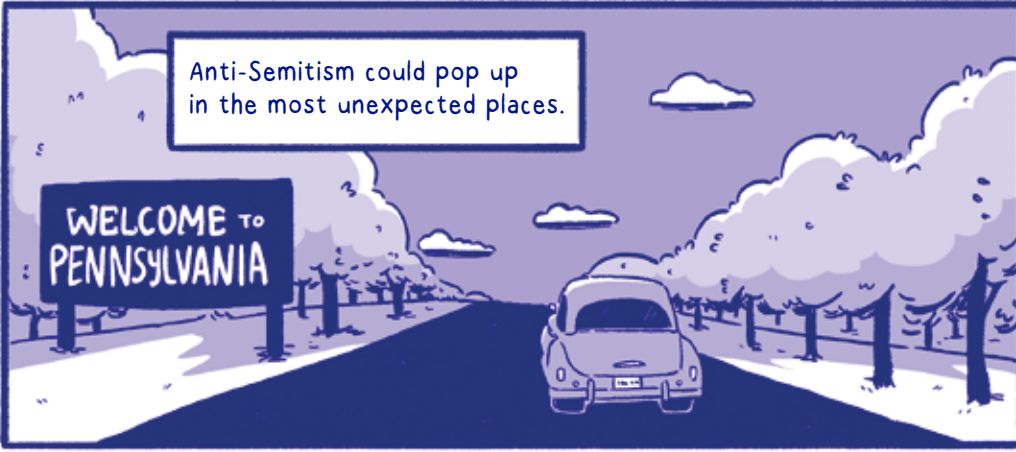




Ruth knew that the two grandmotherly ladies on her block who took in foster children taught their boys that Jews were Christ killers!



Ruth now understood a shameful truth: Anti-Semitism, racism, and other forms of bigotry not only infected other countries,



these evils were widespread in America, too.

We Do Not Allow Intolerance

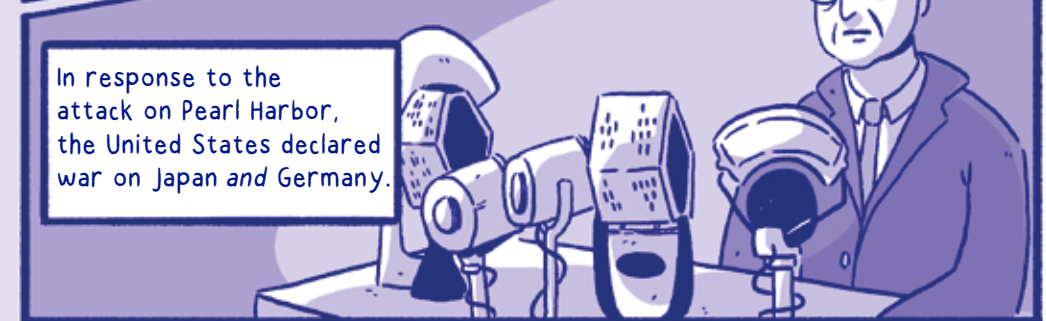
As war raged across the seas,
the United States remained a bystander

until Sunday, December 7, 1941.

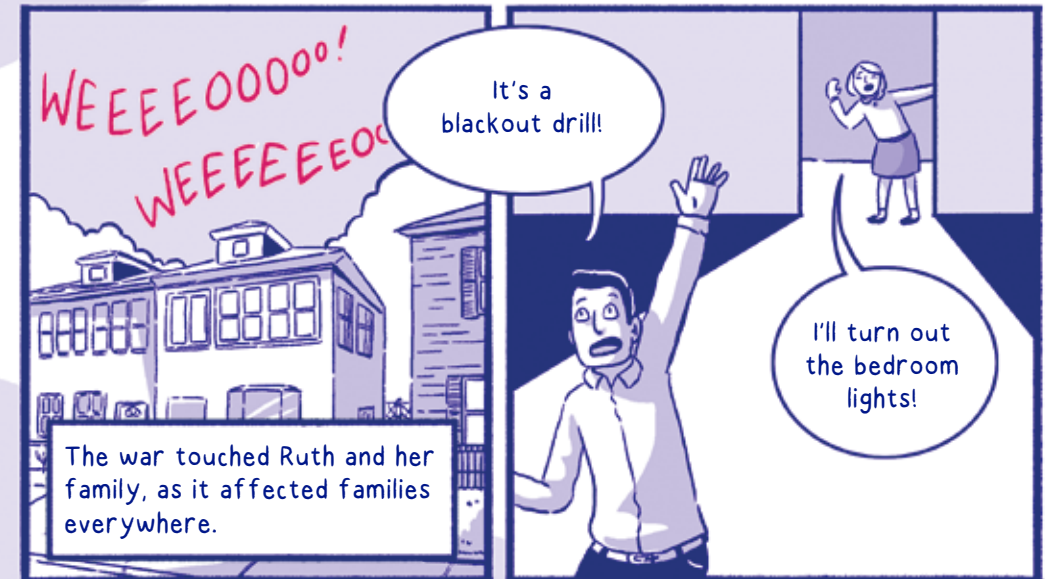
"We interrupt this broadcast to bring you this important bulletin from the United Press: Flash, Washington: The White House announces Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Stay tuned to WOR for further developments, which will be broadcast immediately as received."



Japan was allied with
Nazi Germany in the
war that had engulfed
the globe.



In response to the
attack on Pearl Harbor,
the United States declared
war on Japan and Germany.



WEEEEEOOOO!
WEEEEEOOO!

It's a
blackout drill!

I'll turn out
the bedroom
lights!

The war touched Ruth and her
family, as it affected families
everywhere.