Read the following poem and answer the questions:

Burnt

By Boris Slutsky
(Translated by Daniel Weissbort)

Burdened with family feelings, I went
To my aunt's place,
to see my uncle.

To press my girl cousins to my breast,
Who were so carried away,
as it happened,
By music and the other arts!

I found neither uncle nor aunt,
I did not see my cousins either,
But I remember,
remember
to this day,
How their neighbours,
looking down at the ground,
Said to me quietly: They were burnt.

Everything's gone up in flames: the vices with the virtues,
And children with their aged parents.
And there am I, standing before these hushed witnesses,
And quietly repeating:
burnt.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the poet's message?

2. What do you think? Did the average German citizen know what would happen to their Jewish neighbors? Whether you answer yes or not, what does the poet want the reader to believe? Why?

3. What is the connection between the neighbors **quietly** saying, "They were burnt," and the narrator repeating **quietly**, "burnt?"

4. You will better understand the poem's theme by also reading Blackboard Document: **Neighbors…Just watching**