

EUPHEMISMS

1. Define the term euphemism. Try using the Internet (www.google.com) and search, using the words: “define euphemism.”
2. How are euphemisms used both positively and negatively in our culture? In groups, brainstorm and come up with some everyday examples. (e.g. What does the euphemism died/killed by “friendly fire” mean? Is it positive or negative? What does “collateral damage” mean? Is it positive or negative?)
3. How and why were euphemisms used by the Nazi’s when writing or speaking about Jews? Following is a list of some of these euphemisms:
 - Resettlement
 - Moving off to labor in the East
 - Evaluation
 - Clearing the area of Jews
 - Disinfecting, delousing centers
 - Special treatment
 - Cleaning up of the Jewish question
 - Final solution to the Jewish question
 - Merchandise
 - Load
 - A poison, bacillus in the German blood
 - A parasite
 - Aryanization of Jewish businesses or property
4. Now read the following Nazi directive that bans public reference to the term “The Final Solution of the Jewish Question.”
 - a) Why did Hitler consider this an important message to communicate to Nazi officials?
 - b) Does it tell us something about Hitler’s relationship to the average German citizen?
 - c) Note the date of the directive. Why is this important?

National-Socialist German Workers' Party
Party Secretariat

Head of the Party Secretariat

Führer Headquarters, July 11, 1943

Circular No. 33/43 g.
Re: *Treatment of the Jewish Question*

On instructions from the Führer I make known the following:

Where the Jewish Question is brought up in public, there may be no discussion of a future overall solution (*Gesamtlösung*).

It may, however, be mentioned that the Jews are taken in groups for appropriate labor purposes.

signed M. Bormann

Distribution: *Reichsleiter*
Gauleiter
Group leaders

File Reference: Treatment / Jews