

The Laying of Trip Stones (Stolpersteine), Cologne, 23 Blumenthal Strasse, March 1, 2011

Reading of students of the Kreuzgasse Schule , the highschool where Walter studied

When I first stumbled, and learned something on the destiny of a person during World War II, I was twelve years old and have read about a pink stolen rabbit. [reference to famous 1971 German children book about WWII persecutions and refugees," When Hitler stole a pink rabbit"]

Afterwards I have read much more, and proceeded more slowly, but I very rarely stumbled. I had not been gripped by the people's lives , they appeared to me just like built up stories in a novel.

I have heard for two weeks about the Klein family, I have read some of the letters and the comments in the book.

And there I have stumbled. Because I realized that Walter for instance was not so very different from me. He attended the same school, lived in the same part of the city, and in this week he would have celebrated Carnival like us.

Through these connections of Walter with me and my schoolmates, his destiny has moved us all much more than just raw numbers and dates in a history class.

Therefore I hope that many people pass nearby , and reflect that this stone commemorates an actual person's life, the history of a life. And I wish that the people that pass by here hopefully will stumble.

Maya, Charlotte, Johanna and Lara