**An Assassin’s Story Name:**

**Date: Block:**

**Directions:**

1. **READ the introduction and the story.**
2. **ANNOTATE while you read the introduction AND the story (circle unknown words, underline important phrases, “talk back” by writing your thoughts)**

Talk Back Below!

1. **ANSWER the questions at the end of the reading.**

In the early 1900’s, the world seemed at peace… but there were forces at play pushing the world toward war.

Once of these forces was nationalism – a strong loyalty to a nation and culture. Pride of country and fierce ethnic bonds divided much of Europe.

Nations also wanted power by having the most money. Britain had been the leader of industry for a long time, but Germany was surpassing it in a drive of industrialization. European countries began competing with each other for lands in Africa and Asia to grab raw materials for their factories.

Fearful of losing their colonies, nations built up military power. This militarism, or glorification of the military, led to an “arms race” (where everyone was racing to have more arms, or weapons, than their neighbors). No one wanted war, but everyone was getting ready to fight.

Fear and distrust grew. Nations formed alliances, promising to protect each other against attack. In 1907, France, Russia, and Britain joined together to form the Triple Entente. They were opposed by the members of the Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and for a short time, Italy. More nations soon joined the alliances. Each country promised to help its friends if war broke out in Europe. The stage was set so that a small conflict could easily become a huge war.

The incident that finally brought the nations of Europe to war involved a secret society and the actions of one of its members in the city of Sarajevo. The Austrian archduke was assassinated (murdered). World War I had begun.

See if you can learn why this one incident was explosive enough to lead to war. Why did Princip feel that it was his duty to kill the archduke?

**My name is Gavrilo Princip. I am a Bosnian Serb who dreams. I dream that someday all of the Slavic people will be united under the flag of one country: Serbia.**

**I hate the rulers of Austria-Hungary. They do not like the Slavic people. They do not give us the same rights as the other peoples who live in their empire. It is my duty to wake up the Slavic people. They must revolt and join their brothers and sisters in building a bigger, better Serbia!**

**For months I trained with members of a secret society called the Black Hand. We believed that only violence could make our dreams come true. My friends taught me how to use a pistol. I hoped to use this skill very soon.**

**My friends and I were now ready for our most important mission. We knew that the Austrian archduke, Francis Ferdinand, and his wife were visiting Bosnia on June 28. They were not to leave the country alive! Our leaders told us that the archduke planned to make life easier for the Slavic people when he became emperor. We could not have this! If his reforms helped the Slavic people, they would never revolt. The archduke had to be stopped before he ruined our dreams of a great Serbia!**

**The archduke and his wife were riding in an open car. One of our leaders had prepared a bomb. The car stopped at a bridge and the bomb was thrown. The crowd screamed as the bomb exploded. When the smoke cleared, I saw wounded people lying in the street. But the archduke and his wife were not hurt. I shivered to think that we had failed in our mission.**

**The driver turned the car past the corner where I was standing. It seemed too late for me to do anything. But wait! The car was slowly backing up. I could see the archduke and his wife very clearly. They were sitting just few yards in front of me. The care was moving very, very slowly. I reached for my gun, moved forward, and pointed it at my enemy. I shot once and hit the archduke in the neck. Then his wife covered him with her body. I shot her too! Long live the Slavic people! Long live Serbia!**

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated on June 28, 1914. One month later, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia, Serbia’s friend, alerted its troops and sent them to the borders of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Germany responded by declaring war on Russia.

Believing that the French would soon attack, Germany declared war on France. The British warned that they would enter the war if neutral Belgium was invaded by any of the nations at war. On August 4, 1914, Germany invaded Belgium. Britain then declared war on Germany. The two armed camps now tried to settle their differences on the battlefield.

The Triple Entente countries – France, Britain, and Russia – were joined by Italy and Japan. They were now called the Allies. The Allies were up against the Central Powers (who used to call themselves the Triple Alliance!), which now included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey), and Bulgaria.

**Understanding the Story:** Circle the answer the makes the statement correct

1. Competing to build up weapons is a a) leg race b) foot race c) arms race
2. Britain was the first to industrialize, but next to catch up was

a) France b) Austria-Hungary c) Germany

1. Princip hated those who ruled a) Russia b) France c) Austria-Hungary
2. The Black Hand believe in a) the balance of power b) violence c) passive resistance
3. The Austrian archduke and his wife were visiting a) Paris b) Vienna c) Sarajevo
4. A country that was not an original member of the Triple Entente was

a) Italy b) France c) Russia

**Questions for Review: Answer the questions on A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER!**

1. What was Gavrilo Princip’s dream?
2. Explain how the following countries became involved in the war that erupted after the assassination of archduke Franz Ferdinand: Austria-Hungary, Russia, Germany, France
3. Which country left one treaty group to join the other?
4. List the countries that fought on the side of the Allies
5. List the countries that fought on the side of the Central Powers
6. Use each of the following terms in a sentence: assassination Black Hand Slavic mission

**Activities: Choose ONE of the following to complete:**

1. Imagine that you are a reporter at the trial of Gavrilo Princip. You are to visit him in his cell and interview him. Prepare the questions you want to ask. Then answer the questions as you believe he would answer.
2. You are a defense attorney for Princip. Prepare an argument for his defense.
3. You are a prosecuting attorney against Princip. Prepare your case against him.