

# CARL VON OSSIETZKY



## THE STORY OF CARL VON OSSIETZKY

Carl von Ossietzky grew up in Germany. He was not very good at school, failed his exam and could not continue his studies. Yet, because he was interested in his society and good at writing, he got a job as a **journalist** instead.

**The First World War** began in 1914 and lasted four years. Ossietzky was a **pacifist** and did not want to join the war but he was forced to dig trenches for the German army. When the war was over, he wrote for different **newspapers** and stood up for oppressed groups. He eventually worked for a magazine company that wrote critically about some of the European government's actions, including his home country, Germany. In 1929, Ossietzky decided to publish a news story that revealed a secret the German authorities did not want the world to know: Germany was in the process of training soldiers, building up the air force, acquiring more weapons and getting ready for a new war.

Ossietzky's article was not well received by the German leaders. He was convicted of treason and spent seven months in prison. This did not scare him from continuing to use his voice to criticize authorities. When **Adolf Hitler** came to power in 1933, Ossietzky was put in a concentration camp along with many other political opponents of the Nazi regime.

Because Ossietzky bravely worked to bring out the truth and used his **freedom of speech**, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1936. He was not allowed to leave Germany to receive the award, and unfortunately died of tuberculosis in 1938. But the Nobel Peace Prize helped to make Ossietzky and his work known. He was a courageous **whistleblower** and inspired others to stand up to authorities.

## DRAW THE STORY

Try to make a storyboard using Carl von Ossietzky's story.

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## GLOSSARY

In the text about Carl von Ossietzky, you will find some highlighted words. You may find the text hard to read if you do not understand the words. So we recommend that you research the terms and make your own glossary of the following words or phrases:

Journalist:

The First World War:

Pacifist:

Newspapers:

Adolf Hitler:

Freedom of speech:

Whistleblower: