"Suzy and Leah" by Jane Yolen

1. Refugees are people who have to leave their country because it is unsafe. Leah and the others have fled Germany and the Nazi concentration camps.

2. Leah is in a refugee camp that has "rickety wooden buildings" surrounded by a high fence with barbed wire. It is not fancy, but it is better than a concentration camp. Suzy thinks it is awful because she has nothing but her comfortable home to compare it to.
3. Avi has stopped speaking. His grandmother hid him from the Nazis in a cupboard. When they took her away, he stayed in the cupboard for three days "without food, without water, without words."

4. Jane Yolen is emphasizing how foreign and new everything is to the refugee children. They still behave as if each treat is their last.) Suzy laughs at them, which shows how little she understands about them {although she then helps them}. Leah refuses to take anything from Suzy because she laughed, which broadens the gap between them.
5. Leah does not feel safe. The Americans say the refugees are safe, but she heard the same from the Germans, so she does not believe it. She does not trust the Americans in any way.

6. Suzy has lived a comfortable life and so has no understanding of why Leah is so sensitive and serious. She helps the children by bringing treats, but also laughs at them and resents their wearing her old clothes. All that she recognizes is that they are different from her.
7. Leah thinks school is strange: the Americans call the toilets the bathroom, and she is in school with boys for the first time. She says she does not care about being placed in a low grade, but she probably does. She is also scared about the name tags because they remind her of being labeled as a Jew in Germany.

8. The word *permanent* means "lasting for a long time." Suzy is annoyed that Leah does not seem to appreciate people being nice to her. She does not expect Leah to change, but she seems to want her to.
9.

Before
• doesn't want to give Leah her green dress
• doesn't understand why Leah dislikes her so much

After
• asks her mother questions about Leah's experiences
• gives Leah her own diary
10. Leah explains that in the German camp, people who were sick were killed because they could not work. She was afraid to tell anyone that she was sick. It makes a lot of sense.