“In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.” —Pastor Martin Niemöller, 1945

Directions: Read the above quote and answer the following questions on pg 14 of your I.N. Be prepared to share your answers.

1. Who are “they” that Niemöller writes about, as in, “first they came for...”?
2. What does it mean when he says, “came for”?
3. Why does he repeat the phrase, “Then they came for...” several times?
4. What effect does the repetition of this phrase have on the listener?
5. What other groups did the Nazis “come for” before and during WWII?
6. Who is the narrator of Niemöller’s quote supposed to be?
7. What does he mean by, “I didn't speak up”? What are some ways he could have “spoken up”?
8. What do you think Niemöller’s purpose was for writing and speaking these lines throughout his life after the war?
9. Do you think that everyone in Germany was partly responsible for the Nazi’s rise to power, or that only those active in the Nazi Party were responsible? Explain your answer.
10. How much responsibility do you feel for what takes place around you: in your family, in your school, in your city, in your country, and in the world? List at least three responsibilities you feel for each level.