

HERMAN BAVINCK STUDY GUIDE

by Simonetta Carr

Chapter One

A Child of the Secession

What do you remember?

What was Herman's father's occupation?

Who was Hendrik de Cock and why did he leave the Dutch Reformed Church?

Why did the Bavincks move so often?

What did Jan Bavincks do besides preaching?

What did Herman study at the Hasselman Institute?

What gave the Bavincks comfort after the death of three of their children?

How old was Herman when he left the Hasselman Institute to study at the gymnasium?

Where did Herman stay in Zwolle?

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How did Herman express his first feelings of Romantic love?

How old was Herman when he publicly professed his faith in Christ?

Where did Herman study after gymnasium?

Where was he hoping to continue his studies and why?

Why did some people disapprove of this desire?

Different times

The decision of naming the first son after his paternal grandfather was common in the Netherlands when Herman Bavinck was born. It was common in many other countries, especially in Europe, but it's becoming less popular today. Do you know of anyone who is named after one of his or her grandparents?

When Herman was born, it was common for European nations to have one official denomination that most people would belong to (for example, the Church of England or the Church of Scotland). Today, the Church of England is still the official state church in England, with the British monarch as its Supreme Governor, but the percentage of people identifying with the Church of England is very low (look it up to see the current statistics). In the Netherlands, the Dutch Reformed Church is no longer the state church. It merged with other denominations in

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2004 to form the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PKN), and the country now has a separation of church and state. Can you list some pros and cons of having a state religion?

Gymnasiums (college-prep schools) were more common in Bavinck's day, but they still exist today in some European and South American countries, including the Netherlands.

Something to think about

Hendrik de Cock didn't want to cause a division in the church. He just wanted the church to stay faithful to the confessions of faith its Dutch Reformers had written and all Dutch pastors had promised to keep. These confessions included the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dordt. Have you read any of these? If not, find a copy of the Heidelberg Catechism and read some portions today.

Although creeds and confessions were not written, like the Bible, under direct inspiration of God, they were written as faithful summary of the Bible. Can you see a benefit in having all members of a church agree to follow the same confessions? Why would this be better than simply agreeing to follow the Bible?

Bavinck started to write a diary when he entered the gymnasium. Later, he started a new diary when he entered university. Do you do anything special to mark a change in your life? If so, explain what you do and how it is helpful.

What are some benefits of keeping a diary?

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Those who want to be full members of a Reformed church are required to make a profession of their faith in Christ in front of the congregation. Does your church have a similar requirement? What are the benefits of becoming a full member of a church?

Have you ever heard people asking if the words of the Bible could have been changed by the many people who transcribed it century after century? Or if the miracles recorded in the Bible were just symbolic or have a scientific explanation? Herman was sure that the Bible was written by the inspiration of God, who is always truthful and able to preserve His words through history (no matter how many people transcribe it). How can you have the same certainty?

Writing practice

Do you keep a diary? If so, go back and look at an entry that marked a change in your life, then copy it here. If you don't keep a diary, try to describe from memory an important day in your past.

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Find **Almkerk**. Almkerk is another old town, dating back to the 13th century. When the Bavincks lived there, its population survived mostly by growing flax and raising livestock.

Find **Zwolle**. Zwolle was founded around 800 A.D. by a combination of merchants from Friesland and troops of Charles the Great (Charlemagne). The name of Zwolle has its origin from the word Suolle, which means “hill” because the city was built on a hill between three rivers: IJssel, Vecht, and Zwarte. Since the rivers often flooded, building the city on a hill served to keep it dry besides protecting it from enemies.

Now find **Kampen**. Kampen is another medieval city. It drew its wealth from building traditional ships named “kogges.” A kogge was like one of the big containerships of our days. You can see a replica of their traditional medieval ships (called “kogges”) by looking up “Kampen Kogge.” Tourists visit Kampen to see the huge 14th-century church, its large tower, and its 3200-pipe organ.

Science

The Netherlands are known for their windmills. They were first built around the 13th century to grind grain into flour. Later, the Dutch used windmills for other applications such as pressing oil, making paint, or drawing water off the ground. This last application was very useful in a country that was largely underwater. By drawing water off the ground, the Dutch were able to create more farmland.

How can a windmill draw water from the ground? By using a machine known as the Archimedes’ screw, a spiral-shaped screw inside a hollow tube, which rotates to draw water from a lower source to a higher one. Make your own by following the instructions on many of the online websites (look for “How to Make an Archimedes’ screw (Archimedes wheel).”

New Words

The word “seceder” comes from the Latin verb *secedere*, meaning “to go apart” (*se* = “apart” and *cedere* = “to go” or “to withdraw”). Secession is a form of the same word.

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Chapter Two “Shall I Remain Standing?”

What do you remember?

Did Herman join the students’ society at Leiden?

What could happen to students who didn’t join the students’ society?

Who helped Herman to make that decision?

What did Herman like about Multatuli?

Multatuli thought that, since some Christians had treated others unjustly, Christianity should be banned. What did Abraham Kuyper think about this proposal?

Where was Herman’s faith strengthened the most while he was at Leiden?

What was one of Herman’s favorite Bible texts to preach?

According to Henry Dosker, what were two dangers in staying in a school that challenged Christianity?

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What was Herman's reason for staying in a school that challenged Christianity?

What did Herman's teachers at Kampen conclude about Herman's decision?

Something to think about

Whatever your choice of school may be, there might be times in your life where you will have to choose between joining a popular group of people who engage in sinful activities or staying unpopular and possibly face some teasing for your convictions. Herman asked his pastor for advice. Explain how that was a good decision.

Herman admired Multatuli's passion in fighting injustice. Do you think we can admire some positive traits of unbelievers and learn from their lives or teachings? If so, give an example.

Facing the injustices done by some Christians, Multatuli concluded that Christianity should be abandoned. This is a common reaction by unbelievers. It would make sense in many other situations. For example, we know that Nazism should be abandoned because we can see the evil it produced. But there is a difference. The evils of Nazism were consistent with its teachings, while the evils that some Christians have committed were the result of a misunderstanding of

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God's word. That's why Kuyper said Christianity should not be abandoned – it should be better explained. Can you think of some injustices done by Christians who didn't understand what God really taught?

Writing practice

Whether you keep a diary or take notes during sermons, try to follow Herman's method of keeping a rough copy and a final copy. Write your thoughts fast in a notebook and then transcribe them with nice penmanship in another, checking your spelling and grammar. Do you find this helps you to think more carefully about what you wrote? Give an example here.

Look at the photo of Herman's diary. He wrote in slanted cursive. Do you write in cursive? If so, is it slanted or upright? While American schools have traditionally taught slanted cursive, the schools in other countries have preferred the upright version. Check both styles online, then write a sentence here first in one style and then in another. Which one do you prefer?

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Latin

Herman's new diary at Leiden began with the Latin words: *Ex animo et corpore* (From soul and body). Do you study Latin? Even if you don't, these are easy words to learn.

"Ex" means "from." There are some English words that start with "ex" and have the same meaning? For example, **exit** (go out), **exclude** (shut out), **exhale** (breathe out). Can you think of any more?

"Animus" means "spirit" or "soul." In Bavinck's sentence, he wrote "animo" because Latin words change their endings according to their function in a sentence. *Animus* is used as the subject of the sentence, *animum* as the object, and *animo* with certain prepositions, like *ex*. In Latin, however, there is a difference between *animus* and *anima*. *Anima* is properly the immaterial soul that is part of every human being, while *animus* refers mostly to what the soul does, including thoughts, feelings, will, courage, etc.

"Et" means "and." You find it in our expression "et cetera," which literally means "and the rest." (We abbreviated it as etc.)

"Corpus" means body. Bavinck wrote "corpore" because that's the form you use after the preposition "ex." We find it in the English words "corporation" (a group of people united into one body) and "corpuscule" (a tiny body). Can you find any more?

Social Studies

Multatuli's famous work was a description of the injustices committed by Dutch colonists in the East Indies (mostly Indonesia). These lands were first colonized by the Dutch East India Company in the 17th century.

At first, the Dutch East India Company was just a trading company, importing goods like sugar, coffee, indigo (a blue dye), tea, and spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg. Before then, Dutch merchants had to buy these items from the Portuguese.

Over time, however, the Dutch began to take over their trading lands, setting up their own form of government – which was not always fair to the natives. As an officer in these lands, Multatuli saw that many colonists were taking advantage of the local people, forcing them to work fast for little money and leaving them without enough land and food. Some colonists were also cruel. Multatuli described these injustices in a novel that became popular in the Netherlands

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and caused the Dutch government to make some changes. for money and power. Missionaries should bring the gospel and not the negative aspects of western culture.

To navigate to the East Indies, the Dutch India Company needed good maps. The 17th century is often described as the Golden Age of Dutch cartography. One of the most important cartographers of that time was a pastor named Peter Plancius. Besides his pastoral duties, Plancius was interested in finding better ways to travel from the Netherlands to the Indies. He knew enough about geography to believe it was possible to go to Indonesia by sailing north through Russia and Norway and then south-east, instead of going around Africa like the Portuguese did. That way, they would not meet any Portuguese ships.

Look at a map of the world. Do you think his idea was possible?

Plancius created over one hundred maps and promoted missionary work in the Dutch trading empire. Today, he is recognized as the founding father of Dutch cartography. But he was also one of the participants at the Synod of Dordt that created the Canons of Dordt many Reformed churches are still using.

Cartography

Create a map of your classroom, bedroom, or another room in your house. Follow this link for suggestions: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/mapping-the-classroom/>

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Chapter Three

Pastor

What do you remember?

Why did Abraham Kuyper stay in the Dutch Reformed Church after the Seceders left?

Why did Kuyper call his school Free University?

Why didn't Bavinck accept Kuyper's invitation to teach at his school?

Where did Bavinck decide to go instead?

Why did Bavinck appreciate Snouck's feedback even after Snouck became a Muslim?

What were some of Bavinck's duties as a pastor?

Why did Bavinck leave his congregation in 1882?

Something to think about

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Bavinck said, “A lot can be done with patience and love.” Was there a time when you were able to do more through patience and love than through anger and impatience (maybe with you’re a friend or sibling)? If you can’t think of an example in your life, think of an example in the way your parents deal with you.

New Words

Bavinck said that his life had been enriched by his congregation, with “their deep piety and noble sense of what is good and true.” The word “piety” may not be new to you, but it’s not very common today, just as we don’t say that people are “pious.”

Piety and pious come from the Latin *pietas*, which originally meant love and devotion for parents, country, and God. The King James version of the Bible uses the word “piety” in this sense in 1 Timothy 5:4, which reads, “Let them learn first to show piety at home and to requite their parents.”

Does this explanation help you to understand what Bavinck meant?

Social Studies

Find Franeker in the map. Franeker is in the Dutch province of Friesland (or Frisia). Friesland has not always been part of the Netherlands. Because of its history, many Frisians still view themselves as distinct from other Dutch people. For one thing, although Frisians speak Dutch, they value their traditional language.

Franeker is home of the oldest working planetarium in the world, known as Rijksmonument. It was built in the 18th century by a Dutch man, Eise Eisinga, who studied astronomy on his own after leaving school at 12 years of age. Eisinga built it in his living room, based on the knowledge of the solar system people had at that time. It’s amazingly accurate, although Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are missing because they hadn’t been discovered in Eisinga’s lifetime.

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Chapter Four Professor, Husband, and Father

What do you remember?

When did Bavinck find more time to write and study at the Theological School, and why?

What impressed Bavinck about Johanna Schippers?

Where did Herman and Johanna spend their honeymoon?

What name did they give their daughter, and what was her nickname?

Different Times

Marriage Proposals

Before proposing to Johanna, Herman sent a letter to her parents, asking for their approval. Once they gave it, he proposed to Johanna by letter. Few people follow this tradition today. Ask your parents, relatives, and other married people at your church when they were married and if they followed this tradition. Try to ask more than ten people. Then write your findings here.

How many couples (or representatives of couples) did you interview? _____

How many men asked for the approval of their future in-laws before asking their future wives?

When did the couples who asked for this permission get married? Between _____ and _____

When did the couples who didn't ask for this permission get married? Between _____ and _____

What are your conclusions?

Table Manners

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Herman's and Johanna's wedding dinners were so formal that Herman's parents and some of his friends didn't know how to behave. Read about table manners in the 19th century. You can read this article or open each individual link if you are interested in knowing more.

<https://recollections.biz/blog/mind-your-manners-victorian-table-etiquette/>

Which of these rules seem most strange to you?

Write some of these rules here, then organize a dinner where everyone tries to follow them:

New Words

Dogmatics is the study of the official beliefs of a religion. Bavinck wrote about Christian beliefs. The word comes from the Greek word *dogma*, which originally meant "opinion" or "belief." It later assumed the meaning of set doctrine.

Social Studies

Find **Vlaardingen** on the map. In 1574, during the Eighty Years War of Dutch independence, a group of people burnt down the town to make sure the advancing Spanish couldn't find there food and shelter. In the 20th century, Vlaardingen became a shipbuilding area and an important port.

The Netherlands, Holland, and the Dutch

Most properly, the Netherlands is known as Kingdom of the Netherlands. It is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, meaning that it has a monarch (king and/or queen) as head of state, a democratically elected parliament that holds most political power, and a constitution that both monarch and parliament are bound to uphold. The word Netherlands means "low lands" because much of the country is below sea level. To keep their country from being flooded, the Dutch built huge dikes that keep the water out.

But have you ever heard people refer to the Netherlands as Holland? Technically, the Netherlands include the whole country, which is made up of 12 provinces, while Holland is the name of a specific region within the country, which includes only two provinces: North Holland and South Holland. Sometimes, foreigners refer to the whole country as Holland, maybe because three major cities – Amsterdam, Deft, and La Hague – are located there. But now you know that's not the country's official name.

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If the country is called The Netherlands but is sometimes referred to as Holland, why are the language and the people called Dutch? This word comes from the same root of the word Deutsch, which means German, and was originally used to refer to all Germanic people. In the Netherlands, people refer to themselves as “Nederlanders.” And in some of his writings Bavinck used the word *Hollandsch* for the Dutch language.

Dutch Names

Johanna’s last name, Schippers, would translate to the English “skipper” (captain of a boat). Many Dutch last names refer to occupations, probably because the first person to use that name held that occupation. This is not unusual in any language. In English, we have people named Baker, Smith, Miller, etc. What is unusual is that the Dutch didn’t record these words as official last names until 1811, when Napoleon annexed the Netherlands to France and made last names mandatory. In other words, Johanna’s family might have been referred to as Schippers before 1811, but there was no law stating that they had to have a last name.

You may have noticed that many Dutch last names start with “van,” which means “of” or “from.” That’s because many people used their place of birth or residence as part of their last name. For example, the name Van Gogh (as in the artist Vincent van Gogh), means “from Goch,” which is a town near the Dutch border in Germany. Van Dyck (as in the artist Anthony van Dyck) means “from the dike.”

But even the suffixes “-ma” or “-stra” can mean “from” or “near.” For example, Dijkstra also means “from the dike.” Postma means “near the post.” These suffixes originate in Friesland. The word “de” or “der” before a last name means “the.” So “De Cock” (the pastor you met in chapter one) means “the cook.”

Now that you know this, you can find the meaning of the names of Dutch people you meet or learn about.

Cooking

Compote

The dinner Johanna’s parents served before the wedding included a compote, which is basically sweetened cooked fruit. Compote was very common in Victorian times (the times when Queen Victoria ruled over England). It could be made of fresh or dried fruit. Sometimes, they added port or another sweet wine.

You can find some authentic Victorian recipes for compote here:

<https://www.victorianlondon.org/publications7/beeton-31.htm>

You will notice that these recipes used a lot of sugar. Today, as we are more health-conscious, we might want to use less. If you are using very sweet fruit, you might be able to skip the sugar altogether.

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Chapter Five New Ventures

What do you remember?

How were Bavinck and Kuyper different?

What did they have in common?

What is the gospel?

Why did Bavinck think that Americans were more optimistic about the future than Europeans?

Why did Bavinck have a more negative impression of America ten years later?

What did he think was the only hope for a loving relationship between blacks and whites, and why?

What were some of Bavinck's duties as editor of *De Bazuin*?

What did Bavinck mean when he said, "in unity God loves diversity"?

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Why did Nietzsche think that Jesus was a terrible influence?

Why was Bavinck concerned about Nietzsche's ideas?

Why did Bavinck leave the Theological School to teach at the Free University?

Something to Think About

Kuyper was loud and impulsive, while Bavinck was quiet and careful in his answers. Why do you think God makes people with different personalities? Can you imagine what the world would be like if we all had the same personality? Are our differences a problem or an advantage for the church? Explain your answer:

Bavinck and Kuyper agreed that the gospel changes not only individual people but everything around them. Can you give an example of how people whose lives are changed by the gospel can change the lives of those around them?

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Do you agree that Christians should become familiar with new scientific discoveries and some of the ideas that were becoming popular around them? Explain your answer.

New Words

The Dutch words “Dolerenden” and “Doleantie” come from the Latin *dolentem*, a form of the verb *doleo*, meaning “feeling pain.” *Dolentem* can then be translated as “sorrowful.”

An English word that comes from *doleo* is “condolences,” with is what we say to someone experiencing grief (*con-doleo* = suffering with).

Writing

We mostly know Bavinck’s theological writings, which can sound very technical. But he was an excellent writer in many ways. You can see this in his account of his travels to North America. https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/27880844/My_Journey_to_America_final_version_for_Dutch_Crossing.pdf

You can read some portions of this account. You can glance through to see if there is a place you recognize. For example, Bavinck mentions the names of some places in Canada, Michigan, Iowa, New York, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. If you know these places, compare Bavinck’s impressions with yours.

Reading the works of good writers can also help you to improve your own writing. For example, here is a portion of Bavinck’s description of Niagara Falls.

“The water, as though it had been enraged by the rocks and islands, does not fall, but rather crashes into the deep with violence, furious, boiling, tumbling, and falls away in the water beneath, so deeply that the surface of the water below remains calm, so much so that one can take a boat very near the waterfall itself.”

Notice how he seems to ascribe feelings to the water, which crashes “as though it had been enraged by the rocks and islands.” He could have just written, “The water doesn’t just fall, but crashes into the deep.” How is his description much more effective for the reader?

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The Bible uses this form of writing too, especially in the Psalms. For example, read Psalm 114.

Artwork

Now take the same description of the waterfall and draw a picture, then color it using any means you like. Try to show the water crashing “with violence, furious, boiling, tumbling” and then the contrast of the water underneath that is so calm that a boat can sail on it.

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Chapter Six Amsterdam

What do you remember?

What was Bavinck able to do as a member of the First Chamber of Parliament?

What happened three years after Bavinck's appointment at Parliament?

How were the Netherlands affected by World War I?

Who did Hannie marry?

How did Bavinck die?

Something to Think About

Bavinck thought that wars should be engaged in only as a last resort and never with the idea that powerful nations have a right over weaker nations. Nor should they be fought to expand a nation's borders, culture, or even Christianity. Have you studied any wars in school? Why were they fought? Do you think they could have been avoided?

Do you agree that the family is "the first and best school of nurture that exists on earth."?
Explain what children can learn in their families more than they can learn in schools.

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The rector of the Theological School said about Bavinck, “He grabbed us in our souls through his constant preaching about the richness of God’s grace that we, destitute sinners, have been given in Jesus Christ.” Why do you think we need this constant reminder of the riches God has given us in Christ?

New Words

The word synod comes from the Greek *synodos*, meaning “meeting” or “assembly.” The word *synodos* is actually made up of two parts: *syn*, meaning “with” or “together” and *odos*, meaning “road.” Literally, synod means something like “together on one road.”

Some English words start with the prefix “sym-“ as a form of “syn-.” For example, in “sympathy” (feeling together) and “symphony” (sound together).

The rector of the Theological School called human beings “destitute sinners.” The word “destitute” comes from the Latin *destituere*, which is composed of two parts: *de*, which shows a lack, and *stituere*, meaning “to place.” So a destitute person is removed from its place. We usually used this word to mean someone who has no means to live. Can you see how this meaning may apply to sinners?

The word “neutral” comes from the Latin *ne uter*, meaning “neither one.” It’s a refusal to support one nation or individual rather than another. In English, we also have the word “neutralize” which means to counteract the effect of something. For example, they say that tomato juice neutralizes the smell of the skunk.

Social Studies

Few history books mention how amazing it was for the Netherlands to stay neutral while European nations fought all around it. It took a big commitment. The credit is largely given to

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Queen Wilhelmina who insisted on a strict policy of neutrality, while preparing for a possible invasion by sending troops to the borders.

Here are some numbers that can help you to understand what was going on.

In 1914, the population of the Netherlands was just over six million.

Two hundred thousand men were sent to guard the borders.

About one million refugees came to the Netherlands from Belgium. Thousands of them stayed after the war.

The fight over potatoes mentioned in this chapter was actually a serious riot, as people were hungry and protesting the high price of potatoes – a staple food in the Netherlands. Besides the nine people who were killed, 114 were injured. This is an example of the hardship Dutch people had to endure in spite of their neutrality.

Wilhelmina became queen in 1890, when she was only ten years old, so she had to wait until she turned 18 to take full powers (her mother ruled in the meantime). The Dutch people loved her, and her ability to lead the country during two world wars increased her popularity. If you go to a Dutch shop, you can buy Wilhelmina mints. These were made in 1892 to honor Wilhelmina. They are small white mints with an image of Wilhelmina on one side.

If you go to a Dutch church, you may see people passing out mints during a sermon. This practice may have started to keep alert during the sermon and to keep the children happy, but it has turned into a tradition. If you are offered a mint, check and see if it's a Wilhelmina mint!

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Chapter Seven Legacy

What do you remember?

Where did Johanna live after Herman died?

What were the names of Hannie's and Gerrit's sons?

What did Johanna do after Herman died?

What did Hannie and Gerrit do to protect the Jews?

What did Hugo and Herman do to oppose Hitler?

How did Hugo and Herman die?

How did Gerrit die?

What did the Germans do to Hannie?

How did Theo survive?

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How old was Herman when he publicly professed his faith in Christ?

Where did Herman study after gymnasium?

Something to Think About

How did Hitler impersonate the type of strong man promoted by Nietzsche?

How did the Ruys family impersonate the type of Christianity preached by Herman Bavinck?

While the Bible tells us to submit to our ruling authorities, there are times when we should disobey them, as the Ruys did. When is that?

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What have you learned from Herman Bavinck’s story and the story of his family?

Writing practice

Do you keep a diary? If so, go back and look at an entry that marked a change in your life, then copy it here. If you don’t keep a diary, try to describe from memory an important day in your past.

Look at the poem on page 14 of your book. Can you figure out how it should be read? Can you think of other poems that make sense only if read in a particular way, or that change their meaning according to the way they are read? For example, look up “Spiral poems” or “Reverse poems.” Then write your own.

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Social Studies

During the German occupation of a large part of Europe, many countries put up a resistance. Hugo and Herman Ruys helped to distribute anti-Nazi papers. These papers were obviously illegal. The paper they distributed was entitled *Het Parool*, meaning “the password.” Illegal newspapers helped people to know what was happening, because the Germans made sure that the official newspapers portrayed the Resistance as a criminal movement. There was no freedom of the press, so the only way the people could hear the other side the story was by reading these illegal papers. In total, about 1,300 different illegal newspapers were published in the Netherlands.

Extra Reading

Read more books about the European Resistance to the Nazis.

Here are some examples (parents can help to judge which are best for your age)

Anne Frank, *Diary*

Miep Giez, *Anne Frank Remembered*

Corrie Ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*

Diet Eman, *Things We Couldn't Say*

Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*

Jennifer Nielsen, *Resistance*

Jack Mayer, *Life in a Jar*

Edna Hong, *Bright Valley of Love*

Art

Here is a short interview with the book’s artist, Matt Abraxas:

1. What was your favorite illustration in this book and why?

My favorite is a tie between Illustration #5 with the young man Bavinck on the train and #12 with the old man Bavinck walking away through the street.

Both of these images express a feeling of contemplating what’s ahead, but with the younger version, he thinks about what’s ahead in his own life, and in the older version, he contemplates what is ahead after his life. Both of these images sum up so much in a person’s life, especially one with such a dedication as with Bavinck.

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2. What was the most challenging illustration in this book and how did you meet the challenge?

The most challenging illustration was #2, showing the family huddled together in grief. It's always a challenge to show this type of emotion and trying to maintain a sense of realism. To show too much emotion in faces can look silly and inauthentic, so I rely more on the lighting and composition of how the family is grouped together. I aimed for a sense of tension in the man's hand as well, holding on to the baby.

3. Why will AI never take the place of a human artist?

AI can do a lot of things very well. I use it as a springboard of ideas and it saves me a lot of time when working out pose positions and color theory... but what it cannot do is understand the nuance of human emotion. If you tell AI to paint you a picture of a happy girl sitting in a field, it will focus on obvious features like a smile, and this can look inauthentic. What a skilled artist will do instead is create an image that helps the viewer feel that emotion when looking at the image. For the example of a happy girl in the field, we may not even need to see her face. We might only need to see her hand holding a butterfly. AI can paint that image, but it won't understand why it matters, and that's the most important thing to remember. So, if you use AI as a tool, use it just like you would use a pencil in your hand to draw a picture - you still have to come up with what matters most in that image.

Now you try:

First, ask AI to show you a picture of a happy girl. Did it focus on her smile?

Now try to draw a picture of a happy girl without showing her face. You can show it by the movements of her body or the scenery around her.

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