Several comments to the presentations of Anna and Lukáš

The original title is Sorstalanság, what means Fatelessness. So was the book translated into English. The film directed by Lajos Koltai was translated as Fateless.

I think, crucial motifs and devices of the book and film were depicted in both papers.

Unlike Poland and Czech lands, Hungary was a formally independent state during the war, of course as a Hitler’s sattelite. The Hungarian Jews were discriminated but not sent to extermination camps until the Spring of 1944. Before it, many Jews escaped to Hungary from neighboring countries (Slovakia or Poland). Nevertheless, in March of 1944, Hungary was occupied by Nazi Germany. One month later, transports of Hungarian Jews began. From April to July, 434,000 Jews from Hungary were deported, most of them to Auschwitz where 80 percent of them were gased immediately after the arrival. In July, the Hungarian regent Miklós Horthy ordered to stop the deportation but he was forced to resign and arrested. The anti-Semitic party Arrow Cross took power. Tens of thousands of remaining Jews in Budapest were sent on foot to the Austrian border in death marches or massacred on the banks of Danube. About 560,000 Hungarian Jews were killed and about 145,000 survived in ghettos, camps or with false “Aryan papers”.

Question for discussion:The film as well as the book use the child’s point of view combinig the naivete of the narrator and main character with brutal scenes. For instance, György incoming to Auschwitz sees a football field. He hopes to play football with other boys in Auschwitz. He assumes, the watchtowers in Auschwitz are hides for huntsmen. This device is very impressive. Can you write other examples of this narrative device? Is it not abused in literature and film thematizing the Holocaust in last decades.