

## TEACHING TOOL

### Discussion Questions

Olga Shevchenko and Oksana Sarkisova, "Between Elias and Foucault: Discipline, Photography, and the Soviet Childhood."

1. Look at the images carefully before reading the essay. Describe what you see. How do these images look to you? What do they convey? Could you imagine encountering them in a family album? Why/why not? What does it say about the visual conventions to which we adhere today?
2. Return to the same images after reading the essay, and try to look at them through Marina Grigorievna's eyes. What details do you see? What appears irrelevant? Repeat the same exercise with Yulia's interpretation of the photographs in mind. How does her interpretation change what you see in the photograph?
3. In the end, what do we mean by the "meaning of an image"? Is this meaning in the picture itself, or in the eyes of the viewer? The context of the encounter? The images that surround it on the page? Consider the various aspects that shape your own ways of seeing the world.