

Recommended Holocaust Read-Aloud Texts

Picture Books

- Abells, Chana Byers. *The Children We Remember* (Greenwillow, 1986)
Using photographs, Chana Byers Abells has created an essay about the children who lived and died during the Holocaust, showing not only death and loss, but also courage and endurance.
- Adler, David. *The Number on My Grandfather's Arm* (Urj Press, 1987)
A little girl questions a number printed on her grandfather's arm and he explains how he received it in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II.
- Adler, David. *One Yellow Daffodil: A Hanukkah Story* (Voyager, 1999)
Putting his war-torn childhood out of his mind and concentrating on his flower shop, Holocaust survivor Morris Kaplan is invited by his favorite customers to spend Hanukkah with their family and finds the courage to face his past.
- Adler, David, and Karen Ritz. *A Picture Book of Anne Frank* (Holiday House, 1994)
Traces the life of the young Jewish girl whose diary chronicles the years she and her family hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic.
- Bunting, Eve. *Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust* (Jewish Publication Society of America, 1989)
In this allegory, the author's reaction to the Holocaust, the animals of the forest are carried away, one type after another, by the Terrible Things, not realizing that if perhaps they would all stick together and not look the other way, such terrible things might not happen.
- Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark* (Peachtree, 2000)
Blending fact with legend, Deedy tells of Denmark's King Christian X's simple act of rebellion and courage, which served to unite his people against the Nazis.
- Feder, Paula Kurzband. *The Feather-Bed Journey* (Whitman, 1995)
As she tries to repair a torn feather pillow, Grandma tells about her childhood in Poland, about the Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II, and about the origin of this special pillow.

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Polacco, Patricia. *The Butterfly* (Philomel, 2000)

Young Monique doesn't comprehend the brutality of the Nazis' mission until the day three German soldiers find her admiring a butterfly and they crush it. The butterfly becomes for Monique a symbol of the Nazis' victims.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Fireflies in the Dark: The Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin* (Holiday House, 2000)

Covers the years during which Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to children at the Terezin Concentration Camp. Includes art created by teacher and students, excerpts from diaries, and interviews with camp survivors.

Novels, Nonfiction, Memoirs, and Other

Boas, Jacob. *We Are Witnesses: The Diaries of Five Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust* (Scholastic, 1996)

Dr. Boas, who was born in the very camp that housed Anne Frank, has gathered together the diaries of five young people who recorded the passage from child to adult in the poisonous years of the Nazi terror.

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I Have Lived A Thousand Years: Growing Up In The Holocaust* (Simon Pulse, 1999)

A memoir of a 13 year old Jewish girl from Hungary as she tells of her story of survival.

Frank, Anne. *Diary of a Young Girl* (Bantam, 1993)

From her fourteenth to sixteenth birthdays, Anne Frank, wrote in her diary, "Kitty," while hiding in an attic during the Nazi Occupation of Holland.

Isaacs, Anne. *Torn Thread* (Scholastic, 2002) In an attempt to save his daughter's life, Eva's father sends her from Poland to a labor camp in Czechoslovakia, where she and her sister survive the war.

Laird, Christina. *But Can the Phoenix Sing?* (Greenwillow, 1995) Richard discovers the incredible details of his stern and remote stepfather's hidden past when he is given a manuscript to read while his stepfather is away.

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. (Laurel-Leaf, 1998)

In 1943 Denmark, Annemarie learns the meaning of bravery when her family hides her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

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Matas, Carol. *Daniel's Story* (Scholastic, 1993)

Daniel, a composite character fashioned to reflect the experiences of millions of children during the Holocaust, describes his family's lives in pre-Nazi Frankfurt, their deportation to a ghetto, and their experiences in concentration camps.

Mazer, Norma Fox. *Good Night, Maman* (Harper Trophy, 2001) After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, 12-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

Morpurgo, Michael. *Waiting for Anya* (Puffin, 1997) Jo's elaborate plan might save a group of Jewish children, or it might just incur the wrath of the Nazis.

Orlev, Uri. *Run, Boy, Run* (Trans. Hillel Halkin) (Houghton Mifflin, 2003)

Run, Boy, Run is the extraordinary account of one boy's survival of the Holocaust. Srulik is only eight years old when he finds himself all alone in the Warsaw ghetto. He escapes into the countryside where he spends the ensuing years hiding in the forest, dependent on the sympathies and generosity of the poor farmers in the surrounding area.

Opkyke, Irene. *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*. (Laurel Leaf, 2004).

The memoir of then 17-year old, Irene Gutowna who was a nursing student when Germany invaded her hometown in Poland. Captured by the Russians and ending up back in Germany working for the army in the officers' mess hall, she learned valuable information that she passed on with stolen food to the Jews who were in hiding in the woods near the camp. She eventually became a housekeeper for a German officer and hid 12 Jews in his house through the end of the war.

Perl, Lila and Marion Blumenthal Lazan *Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story* (HarperCollins, 1999)

The story of a family that left Germany for Holland with tickets for a ship bound for America. A three-month delay in their passage caused them to be sent to Bergen Belsen concentration camp where they remained as a family until liberated at the end of the war.

Radin, Ruth Y. *Escape to the Forest: Based on a True Story of the Holocaust* (Harper Collins, 2000)

Ten-year-old Sarah and her family must decide whether to endure the hardships of the ghetto or risk an escape attempt to the forest.

Reiss, Johanna. *The Upstairs Room* (Harper Trophy, 1990)

A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.

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Warren, Andrea. *Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps* (HarperCollins, 2002)

Fifteen-year-old Jack is torn from his family and sent to Blechhammer concentration camp, a work camp at Auschwitz. He learns that his only right left is his right to die.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night* (Bantam, 1982)

An autobiographical narrative, in which the author describes his experiences in Nazi concentration camps.

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic* (Puffin, 1990)

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small village in Nazi-occupied Poland.