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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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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.

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.


*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.

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.

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.

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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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.