

Holocaust Literature for Youth

Prepared by the Alabama Holocaust Commission.

Holocaust literature is an invaluable teaching tool for educators. Literature has the ability to transform Holocaust studies from an experience of the mind to one of the heart. Good Holocaust literature presents factual information in a way that conveys the personal experience of this cataclysmic event. As with all books, no one story will reach everyone in the same manner. Some readers will be drawn in by the story of friends torn apart by antisemitism. Others may cry over the reunion of an adult and her favorite doll. There is no one “best” book.

This annotated bibliography is divided into juvenile and young adult literature sections. The juvenile literature section contains picture books. The young adult literature section contains books originally published for adults. Just as there is no one right book for each student, there are no exact delineations between juvenile and young adult literature. Generally, Young Adult (YA) is identified as ranging from the ages of 12-17, while Juvenile is for children under 12. Ages are set by The American Library Association (ALA), but some publishers have lowered the age for YA fiction down to ten.

As with any resource, please preview books before assigning them as class reading. Each class has its own maturity level and background knowledge. Books that were appropriate in previous years may not be the best choice for a current group. Do not be inhibited by the labels “juvenile” or “picture book.” Many high school students are deeply touched by picture books.

Holocaust literature, fiction and non-fiction, may be broken down into three categories:

a. Remembrance: Personal accounts provide a frame of reference for students, providing an understanding of issues and events as they effected people. They give a uniquely human perspective to this overwhelming event. We honor the six million victims by remembering them as unique individuals.

b. Survival: Readers want to hope for the best. This is one reason that stories of surviving the fear and horror of the camps as well as the stories of hidden Jews abound in Holocaust literature. These books bring to life the fear and dread that were a part of everyday life. They weave the unbelievable horrors of the Holocaust into a context that is made easier to understand.

c. Courage and Humanity: Courage does not exist just among those who reached out to assist others. People relied on their own personal strength and the unexpected aid of others to survive. For those who acted humanly and assisted the persecuted courage was also needed. To do the right thing is not always easy. There are beautiful stories of how humanity can shine through the darkness of hate.

It is our hope that this bibliography serves as tool, resource, and springboard to invigorate Holocaust studies in your teaching.

Juvenile Literature

Anna is Still Here, by Vos, Ida (1995)

Thirteen-year-old Anna, who was a "hidden child" in Nazi-occupied Holland during World War II, gradually learns to deal with the realities of being a survivor.

Behind the Bedroom Wall, by Williams, Laura E. (1996)

Ten-year-old Korinna must decide whether to report her parents to her Hitler Youth Group when she discovers that they are hiding Jews in a secret place behind Korinna's bedroom wall.

The Broken Mirror, by Douglas, Kirk (1997)

After the Nazis destroy his family, Moishe gives up his Jewish faith, calls himself Danny, and is taken to New York where he tries to make the best of his life in a Catholic orphanage.

The Butterfly, by Polacco, Patricia (2000)

During the Nazi occupation of France, Monique's mother hides a Jewish family in her basement and tries to help them escape to freedom.

By the Hanukkah Light, by Oberman, Sheldon (1997)

A grandfather tells his grandchildren his own Hanukkah story from World War II.

The Cage, by Sender, Ruth Minsky (1986)

A teenage girl recounts the suffering and persecution of her family under the Nazis, in a Polish ghetto, during deportation, and in a concentration camp.

The Cats in Krasinski Square, by Hesse, Karen (2004)

Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall.

The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate, by Cohn, Janice (1995)

Describes how people in Billings, Montana joined together to fight a series of hate crimes against a Jewish family.

Clara's War, by Kacer, Kathy (2001)

Clara makes many friends despite the hardships of life inside the walled town of Terezin, where she and her family were sent by the Nazis, so when her friend Jacob decides to escape, Clara must make a difficult choice.

Dancing on the Bridge of Avignon, by Vos, Ida (1995)

Relates the experiences of a young Jewish girl and her family during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Daniel's Story, by Matas, Carol (1993)

Daniel, whose family suffers as the Nazis rise to power in Germany, describes his imprisonment in a concentration camp and his eventual liberation.

The Devil's Arithmetic, by Yolen, Jane (1988)

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

The Doll with the Yellow Star, McDonough, Yona Zeldis (2003)

When France falls to Germany at the start of World War II, nine-year-old Claudine must leave her beloved parents and friends to stay with relatives in America, accompanied by her doll, Violette.

Elisabeth, by Nivola, Claire A. (1997)

Forced to flee the Nazis, a young girl and her family eventually end up in the United States where, years later, with a young daughter of her own, she is improbably reunited with the beloved doll she left behind in Germany.

Emil and Karl, by Glatshteyn, Jacob (2006)

In Vienna, Austria, in 1940, two nine-year-old boys, one Jewish and one Aryan, are classmates and best friends when events of the Nazi occupation draw them even closer together as they fight to survive and escape together.

Erika's Story, by Vander Zee, Ruth (2003)

A woman recalls how she was thrown from a train headed for a Nazi death camp in 1944, raised by someone who risked her own life to save the baby's, and finally found some peace through her own family.

Escape From War, by Riordan, James (2005)

Frank thinks the war is exciting, full of air raids and ruins, and is disappointed when he is evacuated to the boring countryside, where he encounters and dislikes Hannah, a Jewish evacuee from Germany who finds the war horrifying.

Escape From Warsaw, by Serrailier, Ian (1990)

The story of three Polish children and their experiences in Europe during World War II.

Escape to the Forest: Based on a True Story of the Holocaust, by Radin, Ruth Yaffe (2000)

A young Jewish girl living with her family in the town of Lida at the beginning of World War II recalls the horrors of life under first the Russians then the Nazis, before fleeing to join Tuvia Bielski, a partisan who tried to save as many Jews as possible. Based on a true story.

Faraway Home, by Taylor, Marilyn (1999)

Narrates the true story of Karl and his sister Rosa, who fled Nazi-occupied Vienna to Northern Ireland via Kindertransport, where new friends and families helped them cope with war and homesickness.

The Feather-Bed Journey, by Feder, Paula Kurzband (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.

Finding Sophie, by Watts, Irene N. (2002)

At the end of World War II in 1945, fourteen-year-old Sophie, a German Jew who has lived with a guardian in London for seven years, wonders what will happen when she is reunited with her parents and she tells them that she wants to stay in England.

Flowers on the Wall, by Nerlove, Miriam (1996)

Rachel, a young Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Warsaw, struggles to survive with her family and maintains hope by painting colorful flowers on her dingy apartment walls.

Friedrich, by Richter, Hans Peter (1970)

A young German boy recounts the fate of his best friend, a Jew, during the Nazi regime.

The Good Liar, by Maguire, Gregory (1999)

Now an old man living in the United States, Marcel recalls his childhood in German-occupied France, especially the summer that he and his older brother Rene befriended a young German soldier.

Good Night, Maman, by Mazer, Norma Fox (1999)

After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

Good-bye Marianne, by Watts, Irene N. (1998)

Eleven-year-old Marianne Kohn's life is disintegrating in Berlin in 1938 as the Nazis slowly but inexorably choke off Jewish life in the Third Reich. In an effort to save their daughter, Marianne's parents arrange to have her included in the Kindertransport rescue operation.

Hana's Suitcase, by Levine, Karen (2002)

In March 2000, a suitcase arrived at a children's Holocaust education center in Tokyo, Japan. On the outside, in white paint, were these words: Hana Brady, May 16, 1931, and *Waisenkind*—the German word for orphan. Children who saw the suitcase on display were full of questions. Who was Hana Brady? What happened to her?

The Harmonica, by Johnston, Tony (2004)

Separated from his parents in Poland during World War II, a young Jewish boy enslaved in a concentration camp, keeps hope alive while playing Schubert on his harmonica whenever the camp's commandant orders him to play.

Hear O Israel: A Story of the Warsaw Ghetto, by Treseder, Terry Walton (1990)

A Jewish boy describes life in the Warsaw Ghetto, his family's ultimate transference to the camp of Treblinka, and how their faith in God sustained them through unspeakable brutality.

Hero, by Attema, Martha (2003)

This story of courage and adventure is set in Holland during WWII. Isaak, a young Jewish boy, is sent to the Dutch countryside to be hidden from the Germans. He is homesick and miserable until he befriends a special horse.

Hide and Seek, by Vos, Ida (1991)

A young Jewish girl living in Holland tells of her experiences during the Nazi occupation, her years in hiding, and the aftershock when the war finally ends.

Hiding From the Nazis, by Adler, David A. (1997)

The true story of Lore Baer who as a four-year-old Jewish child was placed with a Christian family in the Dutch farm country to avoid persecution by the Nazis.

The Hiding Place, by Ten Boom, Corrie (1971)

The true story of Corrie ten Boom and the efforts she and her family made to save Jews during World War II. Their faith helped them survive the Nazi prison camp.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow, by Bartoletti, Susan Campbell (2005)

By the time Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933; 3.5 million children belonged to the Hitler Youth. It would become the largest youth group in history. Susan Campbell Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people. Her research includes telling interviews with surviving Hitler Youth members.

In My Pocket, by Sim, Dorrit M. (1997)

Fear and uncertainty afflict everyone on the boat on the morning in July 1939 when Jewish children sail from Holland to the safety of a new life in Scotland.

The Island on Bird Street, by Orelev, Uri (1984)

During World War II a Jewish boy is left on his own for months in a ruined house in the Warsaw Ghetto, where he must learn all the tricks of survival under constant life-threatening conditions.

Journey to America, by Levitin, Sonia (1971)

A Jewish family fleeing Nazi Germany in 1938 endures innumerable separations before they are once again united.

The Key Is Lost, by Vos, Ida (200)

When the Germans occupy Holland in 1940 and begin to persecute the Jews there, twelve-year-old Eva and her family assume false names and move from one hiding place to another.

Let the Celebrations Begin, by Wild, Margaret (1991)

A child, who remembers life at home before life in a German concentration camp, makes toys with the women to give to the other children at the very special party they are going to have when British soldiers arrive to liberate the camp.

The Lily Cupboard, by Oppenheim, Shulamith Levey (1992)

Miriam's parents leave her with a non-Jewish family to keep her safe. She hides in a cupboard when the soldiers come near, and deals with her fear by comforting her pet rabbit. The story is told gently, but truthfully – we never do learn whether Miriam will ultimately be reunited with her family.

Lost in America, Sachs, Marilyn (2005)

Follows the experiences of Nicole, a teenaged French Jew, from 1943 to 1948, as she loses her parents and sister to the concentration camps and then leaves her native France to make a new life for herself in New York City.

Luba: The Angel of Bergen-Belsen, by McCann, Michelle Roehm (2003)

A biography of the Jewish heroine, Luba Trzysynska, who saved the lives of more than fifty Jewish children in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during the winter of 1944/45.

Lydia, Queen of Palestine, by Orlev, Uri (1993)

A young Romanian Jewish girl describes her childhood in pre-World War II Romania, her struggles to understand her parents' divorce amid the chaos of war, and her life on a kibbutz in Palestine.

Mara's Stories: Glimmers in the Darkness, by Schmidt, Gary (2001)

Each evening, in one of the barracks of a Nazi death camp, a woman shares stories that push back the darkness, cold, and fear, bringing hope to the women and children who listen.

The Night Crossing, by Ackerman, Karen (1994)

In 1938, having begun to feel the persecution that all Jews are experiencing in their Austrian city, Clara and her family escape over the mountains into Switzerland.

The Night Spies, Kacer, Kathy (2003)

After hiding from the Nazis in the back of a barn in a small village for months, cousins Max and Gabi decide to take a nighttime walk and discover something incredible that can help put an end to the mad reign of the Nazi regime.

No One Must Know, by Wiseman, Eva (2004)

In 1960, Fourteen-year-old Alexandra Gal tries to uncover a secret her parents are keeping from her about her real identity and their life during World War II.

The Number on My Grandfather's Arm, by Adler, David A. (1987)

A little girl questions a number printed on her grandfather's arm and he explains how he got it in a Nazi concentration camp.

Number the Stars, by Lowry, Lois (1989)

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Of Heroes, Hooks, and Heirlooms, by Silton, Fayer (1997)

Mia, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, learns to crochet so that she can make a lace collar like the one her grandmother is wearing in the family's only surviving photograph.

One Candle, by Bunting, Eve (2002)

Every year a family celebrates Hanukkah by retelling the story of how Grandma and her sister managed to mark the day while in a German concentration camp.

One Eye Laughing, the Other Weeping: the Diary of Julie Weiss, by Denenberg, Barry (2000)

During the Nazi persecution of the Jews in Austria, twelve-year-old Julie escapes to America to live with her relatives in New York City.

One More Border: The True Story of One Family's Escape from War-Torn Europe, by Kaplan, William (1998)

It's 1939, and Memel, Lithuania, is no longer safe for Jewish families like the Kaplans. Hundreds of thousands of Jews have tried to flee Hitler's advance, but most do not succeed. Staying one small step ahead of the German troops, the Kaplans encounter the Japanese consul Chiune Sugihara, who arranges exit visas for the family – everyone except for the Russian-born Mrs. Kaplan.

One Yellow Daffodil: A Hanukkah Story, by Adler, David A. (1999)

During Hanukkah two children help a Holocaust survivor to once again embrace his religious traditions.

Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story, by Mochizuki, Ken (1997)

Looks at the Japanese diplomat who used his powers—against the orders of his own government—to assist thousands of Jews in escaping the Nazis in Lithuania

Play to the Angel, Dahlberg, Maurine (2000)

In Vienna in 1938, in the shadow of an increasingly dangerous Nazi Germany, twelve-year-old Greta pursues her dream of becoming a concert pianist like her dead brother Kurt, despite a lack of support from her widowed mother.

A Pocket Full of Seeds, by Sachs, Marilyn (1973)

During World War II in occupied France, a young Jewish girl returns from an overnight visit with a friend to find her family has disappeared.

Promise of a New Spring, by Klein, Gerda Weissmann (1982)

Describes the events of the Jewish Holocaust, comparing it to a forest fire that destroys all forms on life. The survivors are the promise of renewal.

Remember Me, by Watts, Irene (2000)

Eleven-year-old Marianne is provided escape from Nazi Germany on the first Kindertransport to Britain. Based on actual events at the beginning of World War II.

The Righteous Smuggler, by Spring, Debbie (2005)

When his country is invaded by Nazi soldiers, Hendrik, the young son of a Dutch fisherman, decides to "smuggle" Jews with the help of a mysterious boat captain in an effort to save them from persecution.

Rose Blanche, by Innocenti, Roberto (1985)

During World War II, a young German girl experiences Nazism, secretly brings food to Jewish children in a nearby concentration camp, and perishes during a battle between German and Soviet soldiers.

The Secret of Gabi's Dresser, by Kacer, Kathy (1999)

When the Nazis invade Czechoslovakia in 1942 life for Gabi, a Jewish girl, changes forever and will never be the same.

The Secret Seder, by Rappaport, Doreen (2005)

During the Nazi occupation of France, a boy and his father slip out of their village and into the mountains, where they join a group of fellow Jews at a humble Seder table.

The Shadow Children, by Schnur, Steven (1994)

While spending the summer on his grandfather's farm in the French countryside, eleven-year-old Etienne discovers a secret dating back to World War II and encounters the ghosts of Jewish children who suffered a dreadful fate under the Nazis.

Shadow Life: A Portrait of Anne Frank and Her Family, by Denenberg, Barry (2005)

Recounts the plight of the Frank family, including their years in Germany, their flight to Amsterdam, their two years in hiding, their eventual discovery, the deaths of Anne, her sister and mother, and the survival of Otto Frank.

Shoes for Amelie, by Steiner, Connie (2001)

This sensitively written book helps readers understand the incredible bravery and humanity displayed by the many people who helped fight the war without guns.

The Sneetches, by Dr. Seuss (1961)

The unforgettable tale of the unfortunate Sneetches, bamboozled by one Sylvester McMonkey McBean ("the Fix-it-up Chappie"), who teaches them that pointless prejudice can be costly.

Star of Fear, Star of Hope, by Hoestlandt, Jo (1995)

Nine-year-old Helen is confused by the disappearance of her Jewish friend during the German occupation of Paris.

Stones in Water, by Napoli, Donna Jo (1997)

After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice.

The Tattooed Torah, by Ginsburg, Marvell (1983)

Based on true events, this book tells the story of how Torahs were collected and warehoused by the Nazis, and how they were eventually rescued by the Westminster Synagogue, London. The story follows one Torah from its original home in Czechoslovakia through the war (briefly) and to its new home in America.

Terrible Things, by Bunting, Eve (1989)

This allegory uses animal characters to illustrate the famous observation that if we do nothing when others are attacked, no one will be left to come to our aid when we are in need. The Holocaust is not referred to by name, but the idea of discrimination is aptly conveyed.

The Tie Man's Miracle: A Chanukah Tale, by Schnur, Steven (1995)

On the last night of Hanukkah, after hearing how an elderly survivor lost his family in the Holocaust, a young boy makes a wish that is carried to God as the menorah candles burn down.

Touch Wood: A Girlhood in Occupied France, by Roth-Hano, Renee (1988)

In this autobiographical novel set in Nazi-occupied France, Renee, a young Jewish girl, and her family flee their home in Alsace and live a precarious existence in Paris until Renee and her sister escape to the shelter of a convent in Normandy.

Turned Away, by Matas, Carol (2005)

It is 1941 and while her Winnipeg family worries about a brother and cousin captured by the Japanese, Devorah Bernstein attempts to secure the safety of her Jewish cousin, Sarah, who is facing the horrors of Nazi anti-Semitism in France.

Twenty and Ten, by Bishop, Claire Huchet (1952)

Twenty school children hide ten Jewish children from the Nazis occupying France during World War II.

Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary, Siegal, Aranka (1981)

Recounts the bewilderment of being a Jewish child in Hungary between 1939 and 1944, and relates the ordeal of survival in the Beregszasz ghetto.

Vive la Paris, by Codell, Esme Raji (2006)

Fifth-grader Paris learns some lessons about dealing with bullies of all kinds as she wonders how to stop a classmate from beating up her brother at school and as she learns about the Holocaust from her piano teacher, Mrs. Rosen.

Waiting for Anya, by Morpurgo, Michael (1991)

In Vichy, France, during World War II, a 12-year-old boy, a man, and the townspeople discover the meaning of courage as frightening inner conflicts are revealed.

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit, by Kerr, Judith (1971)

Recounts the adventures of a nine-year-old Jewish girl and her family in the early 1930's as they travel from Germany to Europe.

When the Soldiers Were Gone, by Propp, Vera (1999)

After the German occupation of the Netherlands ends, Benjamin, a Jewish boy hidden by Righteous Gentiles, reluctantly leaves the Christian family with whom he had been living, and reunites with his almost forgotten parents, who also have come out of hiding.

Who Was the Woman Who Wore the Hat?, by Patz, Nancy (2003)

A meditation on a woman's hat once on display in the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam.

Willy and Max: A Holocaust Story, by Littlesugar, Amy (2005)

In Belgium during World War II, Willy becomes friends with Max and his Jewish family, and although they become separated, they remain related by a bond of friendship and a special painting.

Yellow Star, by Roy, Jennifer (2006)

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

The Yellow Star, the Legend of King Christian X of Denmark, by Deedy, Carmen Agra (2000)

In this unauthenticated but widely told story, the King of Denmark leads all Danes in wearing yellow Stars of David on their clothing, so that their Jewish brethren will be hidden as stars among the heavens. Nazi soldiers and swastikas are depicted, but the language is very mild and the story is very hopeful. (While this particular story is only a legend, it is true that Denmark protected its Jewish population from the Nazis much more effectively than other European countries.)

Young Adult Literature

Address Unknown, by Taylor, Kathrine Kressmann (1938)

This fictional novel consists of the letters which two friends write to each other between November 1932 and March 1934. Max Eisenstein lives in San Francisco, Martin Schulse in Munich. The latter has only recently, in 1932, returned from California to his German homeland. In the United States, both friends jointly managed an art gallery, and Martin remains co-owner even after he moved away.

Within a few months and a couple of letters, Martin becomes almost unrecognizable. Having become a member of the National Socialist Party, he pours antisemitic insults over Max and says that he won't have any further correspondence. Max is desperate; he does not understand this transformation. Nevertheless, out of fear for his sister who lives in Berlin and who Martin once had a love affair with, he turns to him again and asks him to protect her. Martin, however, leaves her to the SA. Max decides to take revenge on Martin.

After the War, by Matas, Carol (1996)

After being released from Buchenwald at the end of World War II, fifteen-year-old Ruth joins the underground organization Berihah, and risks her life to lead a group of children across Europe to Palestine.

All But My Life, by Klein, Gerda Weissmann (1995)

The unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz, Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops—including the man who was to become her husband—in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrible journey.

Along the Tracks, by Bergman, Tamar (1991)

Recounts the adventures of a young Jewish boy who is driven from his home by the German invasion, becomes a refugee in the Soviet Union, is separated from his family, and undergoes many hardships before enjoying a normal home again.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, by Frank, Anne (1995)

The “definitive edition” that expresses the thoughts of an adolescent Jewish girl as she hides from the Nazis for two years in an abandoned office building.

Anne Frank and Me, by Bennett, Cherie (2001)

After suffering a concussion while on a class trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole finds herself living the life of a Jewish teenager in Paris during the Nazi occupation.

Auschwitz, by Croci, Pascal (2004)

The horrors and brutality of the Holocaust are captured in this gripping graphic novel, which follows the story of a couple, Kazik and Cessia, who lose a daughter at Auschwitz and barely survive the concentration camp themselves, in a historical saga based on the reminiscences of actual concentration-camp survivors.

Behind the Secret Window: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood During World War II, by Toll, Nelly S. (1993)

The Polish-Jewish author shares the true story of her experiences in Poland during World War II. Separated from her father and brother, the then 8-year-old Toll and her mother were taken in and hidden from the Nazis by a Gentile family. Illustrated with watercolor paintings done by the author during the time she was in hiding.

The Big Lie: A True Story, Leitner, Isabella (1992)

The true story of Isabella Leitner, a young Jewish woman who was living in Hungary in 1944. In March of that year, the Nazis came and forced all the Jewish citizens into crowded ghettos. Isabella, her mother, and her five siblings are then sent to Auschwitz where her mother and baby sister are killed in the gas chambers. Isabella starkly describes life in the concentration camps, the death march to Bergen-Belsen, the beating death of one of her sisters, her liberation, and her reunion with surviving family members. Illustrated with charcoal sketches.

The Book Thief, by Zusak, Markus (2006)

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, by Boyne, John (2006)

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

The Boys from St. Petri, by Reuter, Bjarne (1991)

In 1942, a group of young men begin a series of increasingly dangerous protests against the German invaders of their Danish homeland.

Briar Rose, by Yolen, Jane (1992)

Becca's grandmother tells her that she is a princess, and after her death, Becca investigates her grandmother's mementos and discovers her harrowing teenage years, including survival in a mass grave and Nazis killing her husband.

Bright Candles: A Novel of the Danish Resistance, by Benchley, Nathaniel (1974)

The experiences of a sixteen-year-old Danish boy during the German occupation of his country in World War II.

But Can the Phoenix Sing?, by Laird, Christa (1993)

Seventeen-year-old Richard discovers the incredible details of his stern and remote stepfather Misha's hidden past when he is left a manuscript to read while Misha is away in Australia. The manuscript tells Misha's story as a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto recalls his experiences in Nazi-occupied Poland in this sequel to Shadow of the Wall.

Children of Bach, by Dillon, Eilís (1992)

A Hungarian Jewish family of talented musicians escapes Nazi persecution during World War II.

The Children of Willesden Lane, by Golabek, Mona (2003)

A poignant story of tragedy and triumph in a time of war. Famed concert pianist Mona Golabek shares the inspirational true story of her mother's escape from pre-World War II Vienna to an orphanage in London-243 Willesden Lane.

Daniel, Half Human: And the Good Nazi, by Chotjewitz, David (2004)

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish. Also details Daniel and Armin's reunion in 1945 in interspersed chapters.

Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews, by Levine, Ellen (2000)

This nonfiction book tells the story of several Danes who defied the Nazis during their occupation of Denmark. Includes source notes, biographical sketches of the people interviewed for the book, a chronology, and an explanation of how the author researched the book.

The Devil in Vienna, by Orgel, Doris (1978)

Inge, who is Jewish, and Lieselotte, a Catholic with Nazi parents, try to make their friendship outlast the Third Reich.

Dominic's War, by Parkinson, Curtis (2006)

In 1944, the mountain of Monte Cassino and a Benedictine monastery become the stage for one of the most brutal battles of World War II, and Domenic and his family become caught in the crossfire as they hide two escaped prisoners-of-war.

Dreaming in Black and White, by Jung, Reinhardt (2003)

A boy dreams that he is a student during the period of the Nazi Third Reich in Germany, where he is persecuted for being physically handicapped.

Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany, Garner, Eleanor Ramrath (1999)

This compelling memoir of Eleanor Ramrath Garner's youth, growing up as an American trapped in World War II Berlin, puts a very human face on the horrors of war. Includes a new Author's Note. Photos.

Elly: My True Story, by Gross, Elly Berkovits. (2007)

When Elly was just 15, she, her mother, and brother were transported to Auschwitz-II/Birkenau concentration camp. She never saw her family again. Thanks to a series of miracles, Elly survived the Holocaust. Today she is dedicated to keeping alive the stories of those who did not. This book tells her unforgettable true story. Illustrated with photos.

The Entertainer And The Dybbuk, by Fleischman, Sid (2007)

One night The Great Freddie, a young ventriloquist, is possessed by a dybbuk. A what? A Jewish spirit. A scrappy demon who glows as if spray-painted by moonlight. The dybbuk is revealed to be the ghost of a twelve-year-old boy named Avrom Amos, a victim of the Nazis during World War II. In a plucky scheme to seek revenge, he commandeers The Great Freddie's stage act and entraps the entertainer in the postwar ashes of Germany. Behind the footlights, the dybbuk lights up the terrible fate of a million and a half Jewish children, including Avrom himself.

Escaping into the Night, by Friedman, D. Dina (2006)

Thirteen-year-old Halina Rudowski narrowly escapes the Polish ghetto and flees to the forest, where she is taken in by an encampment of Jews trying to survive World War II.

Far Above Rubies, by Polansky, Cynthia (2007)

Based on a true story, a Dutch woman is caught in the nightmare of Hitler's regime when she voluntarily accompanies her six stepdaughters to Auschwitz. What transpires during and after the war exemplifies a rare courage in an extraordinary heroine.

The Fighter, by Greif, Jean-Jacques (2006)

Moshe Wisniak, a poor Polish Jew, uses his physical strength and cleverness, plus luck, to help him survive the horrors he is subjected to in the concentration camps of World War II. Based on the life of Moshe Garbarz.

The Final Journey, by Pausewang, Gudru (1996)

Eleven-year-old Alice and her grandfather have been herded into a crowded cattle-train where the harsh realities of Hitler's Germany and his treatment of the Jews await them.

Flames of the Tiger, by Wilson, John (2003)

After escaping from Berlin with his sister, Greta, Dieter describes to a wounded Canadian soldier his life growing up in Nazi Germany with parents who supported the regime with reservations and a brother in the SS, joining the Hitler Youth, and fighting in Normandy.

Four Perfect Pebbles by Lazan, Marion Blumenthal (1996)

A harrowing and often moving account of the co-author's family's struggle to survive the Holocaust. Opening in Bergen-Belsen, the story retraces the events leading up to the Blumenthals' imprisonment there.

A Frost in the Night, by Baer, Edith (1998)

The story of one Jewish family in the final year of the Weimar Republic.

Good Night, Maman, by Mazer, Norma Fox (1999)

Karin Levi and her family must hide out in their attic to avoid the German soldiers who are ravaging their village and taking Jews away to die in the camps. Eventually, they are forced to leave their home entirely, and must continue to outwit the soldiers by relying upon the help of strangers. When Maman becomes sick, she insists that Karin and her brother Marc leave for America without her. When they arrive in America, they learn that their beloved Maman has died—but, meanwhile, they are building a new life, with new friends, in a new country.

Greater than Angels, by Matas, Caro (1998)

Anna, a teenaged German refugee, relates how she and other Jewish children were cared for by the citizens of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, during the German occupation.

The Greenies, by Paperny, Myra (2005)

Having survived the Nazi death camps, teenaged Danny and Lilli arrive as refugees in Canada where they must overcome prejudice and enormous challenges as they try to adapt to a new life.

Hidden Children, by Greenfeld, Howard. (1993)

Interviews with 15 Jewish Holocaust survivors who, as children during World War II, had to go into hiding to avoid being captured by the Nazis. These children survived by living with non-Jewish families, hiding in religious institutions, or constantly moving from place to place on their own. Some of the survivors were treated well by their hosts and lived "near normal" lives until the end of the war; others were treated cruelly, and some were even handed over to the Nazis by the very people who were supposed to protect them. Illustrated with b&w photographs.

Hidden Letters, by Slier, Deborah (2007)

In 1997, two large bundles of letters that had remained hidden in the ceiling for 55 years were discovered in a house being demolished. The letters had been written by 18-year-old Flip Slier to his parents while he was in a forced labor camp in Nazi-occupied Holland.

I Am David, by Holm, Anne (1993)

The adventures of a 12-year-old boy who escapes from an Eastern European concentration camp and travels to Denmark and freedom.

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

An intense autobiographical account of a 13-year-old's sudden introduction to war. When Nazis invaded her Hungarian home, Elli found herself shipped to a concentration camp, where she was selected for work. As one of the few teenage camp inmates, Elli recounts a chilling story of survival.

I Never Saw Another Butterfly, by Volavkova, Hana (1994)

Fifteen thousand children under the age of fifteen passed through the Terezin Concentration Camp. Fewer than 100 survived. In these poems and pictures drawn by the young inmates, we see the daily misery of these uprooted children, as well as their hopes and fears, their courage and optimism. 60 color illustrations.

I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree: A Memoir of a Schindler's List Survivor, by Hillman, Laura (2005)

The remarkable true story of one young woman's nightmarish coming-of-age. But it is also a story about the surprising possibilities for hope and love in one of history's most brutal times.

If I Should Die Before I Wake, by Nolan, Han (1994)

As Hilary, a Neo-Nazi initiate, lies in a coma, she is transported back to Poland at the onset of World War II into the life of a Jewish teenager.

If Not Now, When?, by Levi, Primo (1985)

From 1943 to 1945, a band of Jewish partisans engages in guerilla warfare against the Germans in eastern Europe.

In My Enemy's House, by Matas, Carol (1999)

When German soldiers arrive in Zloczow during World War II, a young Jewish girl must decide whether or not to conceal her identity and work for a Nazi in Germany in order to survive.

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer, by Opdyke, Irene (1999)

"You must understand that I did not become a resistance fighter, a smuggler of Jews, a defier of the SS and the Nazis all at once. One's first steps are always small: I had begun by hiding food under a fence." Irene Gut was just a girl when the war began: seventeen, a Polish patriot, a student nurse, a good Catholic girl. As the war progressed, the soldiers of two countries stripped her of all she loved – her family, her home, her innocence – but the degradations only strengthened her will.

Jacob's Rescue, by Drucker, Malka (1993)

In answer to his daughter's questions, a man recalls the terrifying years of his childhood when a brave Polish couple, Alex and Mela Roslan, hid him and other Jewish children from the Nazis. Based on a true story.

Kanada, by Wiseman, Eva (2006)

When fourteen-year-old Jutka and her Hungarian Jewish family are sent to Auschwitz during World War II, her only hope lies in dreaming about the free land of Canada, which is in harsh contrast to the "Kanada" found in the camp—a storehouse for the belongings of those who died.

Katarina, by Winter, Kathryn (1998)

Katarina is a non-practicing Jewish girl living in Slovakia who has to go into hiding during World War II. Relying on the only religious training she has ever received –from her aunt's Catholic maid – Katarina prays that the saints will protect her and her family from the horrors of war. The story is based on the author's personal experiences.

Kindertransport, by Drucker, Olga Levy (1992)

The author describes the circumstances in Germany after Hitler came to power that led to the evacuation of many Jewish children to England and her experiences as a young girl in England during World War II.

The Kommandant's Girl, by Jenoff, Pam (2007)

Becoming a spy for the resistance after the Nazi's invade Poland, Emma Bau, taking on a new identity as a gentile, becomes a high-ranking Nazi official's assistant and, leading a double life, compromises her marriage vows, her safety, and the lives of those she loves for the cause.

The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank, by Lindwer, Willy (1991)

This is the devastating, "unwritten" final chapter of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, a book which has become a symbol for millions of the horror of the Holocaust. Anne made her last diary entry on August 1, 1944. Four days later she and her family were arrested by the Nazis and deported to concentration camps, where Anne perished some seven months later.

Life in a Nazi Death Camp, by Saldinger, Anne Grenn (2001)

This book is part of the Lucent Books series *The Way People Live*. It is organized into chapters with titles such as "Typical Conditions in the Camps," "The NAZI Plan for Genocide," "A Frightful Existence," and "Extermination through Labor." It is full of historical photographs that are very difficult to view, so this book is definitely for upper middle school. There is a short appendix, a good glossary, and some recommendations for further reading in the back. This would make a good non-fiction addition to a classroom library.

Lisa's War, by Matas, Carol (1987)

During the Nazi occupation of Denmark, Lisa and other teenage Jews become involved in an underground resistance movement and eventually must flee for their lives.

Light from the Yellow Star, by Fisch, Robert O. (1998)

Fisch tells his story alongside his paintings of the Holocaust experience. The abstract pictures on large-size, quality paper are like monuments, with flames, blood, and barbed wire; black boots crush white outstretched hands; sometimes there's a yellow star. Opposite each painting is a short narrative, beginning with a joyful childhood, then moving to the Nazi occupation, the transports, the camps, the massacres, the marches, the liberation.

The Lady With the Hat, by Orlev, Uri (1995)

In 1947, seventeen-year-old Yulek, the only member of his immediate family to survive the German concentration camps, joins a group of young Jews preparing to live on a kibbutz in Israel, unaware that his aunt living in London is looking for him.

Malka, by Pressler, Mirjam (2003)

In the winter of 1943, a Polish physician and her older daughter make a dangerous and arduous trek to Hungary while seven-year-old Malka, who they were forced to leave behind when she became ill, fends for herself in a ghetto.

The Man from the Other Side, by Orlev, Uri (1991)

Living on the outskirts of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, fourteen-year-old Marek and his grandparents shelter a Jewish man in the days before the Jewish uprising.

Memories of Survival, by Krinitz, Esther Nisenthal (2005)

A story of surviving the Holocaust in Poland, illustrated in a collection of embroidered panels, and told in the survivor's own words.

Milkweed, by Spinelli, Jerry (2003)

Captures the hardships and cruelty of life in the ghettos of Warsaw during the Nazi occupation of World War II, through the eyes of a Jewish orphan who must use all his wits and courage to survive unimaginable events and circumstances.

My Canary Yellow Star, by Wiseman, Eva (2001)

Young Marta lives in Budapest during the Second World War. She must leave school when Jews are barred from classes. Then her father is arrested and sent to dig ditches in Yugoslavia. Soon her family must leave their apartment.

Night, by Wiesel, Elie (1960)

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

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War, by Lobel, Anita (1998)

The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.

Parallel Journeys, by Ayer, Eleanor (1995)

Told in alternating chapters, this is the true story of two children swept up in the horrible events of World War II. Helen is a Jewish girl who spends two years hiding in the Netherlands before being captured by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz. Alfons is a boy who lives just a few miles away from where Helen was born. He joins the Hitler Youth and becomes a commander by the age of 16. Their stories reveal the terrible impact Hitler had on a generation of German children. More than 40 years after the war ends, Helen and Alfons meet for the first time and discover that they share the goal of teaching young people that peace and compassion is, and should be, a possibility for all people.

Room in the Heart, by Levitin, Sonia (2003)

After German forces occupy Denmark during World War II, fifteen-year-old Julie Weinstein and fifteen-year-old Niels Nelson and their friends and families try to cope with their daily lives, finding various ways to resist the Nazis and, ultimately, to survive.

Run, Boy, Run, by Orlev, Uri (2003)

Based on the true story of a nine-year-old boy who escapes the Warsaw Ghetto and must survive throughout the war in the Nazi-occupied Polish countryside.

Sacred Shadows, by Schur, Maxine (1997)

When her German hometown becomes part of Poland after World War II, Lena, a young German Jew, struggles to come to terms with the anti-Semitism and anti-German hatred that seems to be growing around her.

Salvaged Pages, by Zapruder, Alexandra (2004)

This is a stirring collection of diaries written by young people, ages 12 to 22, during the Holocaust. Some of the writers were refugees, others were hiding or passing as non-Jews, some were imprisoned in ghettos, and nearly all perished before liberation.

Sarah's Key, by Rosnay, Tatiana de (2002)

On the anniversary of the roundup of Jews by the French police in Paris, Julia is asked to write an article on this dark episode and embarks on an investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and to the ordeal of Sarah.

The Secret of the Mezuzah, by Bell, Mary Reeves (1999)

When Con, an American teenager living in Austria, learns that Vienna is a center of international intrigue, his search for a spy entangles him and his best friend, Hannah, in a mystery that leads back to the Holocaust.

Shadow of the Wall, by Laird, Christa (1989)

Living with his mother and two sisters in the Warsaw Ghetto, Misha is befriended by the director of the orphanage, Dr. Korczak, and finds a purpose to his life when he joins a resistance organization.

Shanghai Shadows, by Ruby, Lois (2006)

From 1939 to 1945, a Jewish family struggles to survive in occupied China; young Ilse by remaining optimistic, her older brother by joining a resistance movement, her mother by maintaining connections to the past, and her father by playing the violin that had been his livelihood.

Sisterland, by Newbery, Linda (2004)

When Hilly's grandmother becomes ill with Alzheimer's disease, her family is turned upside down by revelations from her life during World War II.

Something Remains, by Barth-Grozinger, Inge (2006)

In 1933, as Hitler becomes Chancellor, twelve-year-old Erich and his family, who are Jewish, find they need to make changes in their everyday lives as hatred of the Jews grows.

A Special Fate, Chiune Sugihara : Hero of the Holocaust, by Gold, Allison (2000)

The Japanese diplomat who used his powers—against the orders of his own government—to assist thousands of Jews in escaping the Nazis in Lithuania

Summer of My German Soldier, by Greene, Bette (1973)

Sheltering an escaped prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old girl in Arkansas.

Survival In Auschwitz, by Levi, Primo (1995)

In 1943, Primo Levi, a twenty-five-year-old chemist and "Italian citizen of Jewish race," was arrested by Italian fascists and deported from his native Turin to Auschwitz. This is Levi's classic account of his ten months in the German death camp, a harrowing story of systematic cruelty and miraculous endurance.

Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps, by Warren, Andrea. (2001)

Living in Poland, 12-year-old Jack Mandelbaum is hardly aware that he's Jewish. But when Hitler comes to power, Jack is torn from his family as they are herded to a concentration camp, and he is forced to work for the Nazis. Each day is a struggle to survive, and life in the camps is brutal as Hitler's guards are skilled at crushing a prisoner's spirit. This true story is illustrated with photos.

Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust, by Zullo, Allan, & Mara Bovsun (2004)

These are the true-life accounts of nine Jewish boys and girls whose lives spiraled into danger and fear as the Holocaust overtook Europe. In a time of great horror, these children each found a way to make it through the nightmare of war. Some made daring escapes into the unknown, others disguised their true identities, and many witnessed unimaginable horrors. But what they all shared was the unshakable belief in—and hope for—survival. Their legacy of courage in the face of hatred will move you, captivate you, and, ultimately, inspire you.

Tales from a Child of the Enemy, by Duba, Ursula (1995)

A German woman recalls her childhood in the rubble of Hitler's Germany--and the shattering revelation, years later, of the Holocaust in this haunting sequence of prose poems. Interwoven with these are the wrenching stories of the Holocaust survivors and their children who were her neighbors in an Eastern neighborhood in Brooklyn in the mid-sixties. Duba's confrontation with his heritage is unflinching and the stories hard to forget.

Ten Thousand Children, by Fox, Anne L. & Eva Abraham-Podietz (1999)

Tells the true stories of children who escaped Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport, a rescue mission led by concerned British to save Jewish children from the Holocaust.

A Time to Choose, by Attema, Martha (1995)

When his girlfriend joins the Dutch Resistance in 1944, sixteen-year-old Johannes van der Meer must choose between love of his country and love for his father, a Nazi collaborator who has disgraced the family name.

Torn Thread, by Isaacs, Anne (2000)

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.

A Traitor Among Us, by van Steenwyk, Elizabeth (1998)

Thirteen-year-old Pieter Van Dirk is part of the Resistance movement in World War II Holland. As he takes more chances, he realizes that there's a traitor in his village--someone who would reveal his identity to the Nazis if his undercover work is discovered. The suspects multiply as the suspense increases and the stakes grow higher.

The True Story of Hansel and Gretel, by Murphy, Louise (2003)

A retelling of the classic fairy tale, set in Nazi-occupied Poland, follows two Jewish children, left by their father and stepmother to seek refuge in a dense forest, as they wander the woods until being taken in by Magda, an eccentric old woman.

Two Suns in the Sky, by Bat-Ami, Miriam (1999)

In 1944, an Upstate New York teenager named Christine meets and falls in love with Adam, a Yugoslavian Jew living in a refugee camp, despite their parents' conviction that they do not belong together.

An Unbroken Chain: My Journey Through the Nazi Holocaust, by Oertelt, Henry (2000)

Oertelt, who lived with his older brother and widowed mother in Berlin, had just marked his twelfth birthday when Hitler came to power in January 1933. The author links together a chain of events or facts that saved Oertelt's life during the Holocaust.

Until We Meet Again: A True Story of Love & Survival in the Holocaust, by Korenbitt, Michael, & Kathleen Janger (1995)

This book reads like a novel, yet tells the compelling true story of two families decimated by the Holocaust. In 1942 in a small town in Poland, 17-year-old Manya goes in hiding with her sweetheart, Meyer, also 17, and his family. For three long years, Manya & Meyer endure the loss of parents & siblings, separation from each other, & the horrors of concentration camps, including Auschwitz - but are helped at key points by courageous Polish Catholics & are constantly sustained by their faith & their love for each other. Co-authored by their son Michael, "Until We Meet Again" has been praised by historians for its vivid portrayal of the times, by teachers for its educational usefulness, and by all readers for its absorbing and inspiring narrative. Michael Berenbaum of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum says, "Korenblit & Janger show that whoever retells the story of one person recovers an entire world, in all its complexity & drama...One can only admire this well-written work of filial devotion."

Walk the Dark Streets, by Baer, Edith (1998)

Describes the experiences of a Jewish girl, her family and friends, in Germany during the rise and reign of the Nazis.

The Wave, by Strasser, Todd (1981)

Novel based on a true incident that occurred when a teacher conducted an experiment dealing with group pressure in his classes.

We Are Witnesses, by Boas, Jacob (1995)

Diary entries from five teenagers who eventually met the same fate as victims of the Holocaust. David Rubinowicz, the son of a Polish diaryman, Yitzhak Rudashevski, a communist living in Lithuania, Moshe Flinker an Orthodox Jew living in Belgium, Eva Heyman, a wealthy girl living in Hungary, and Anne Frank living, in hiding with her family in Amsterdam. Diary entries are paired with historical information as well as the reflections of the editor who was born in a concentration camp.

We Remember the Holocaust, by Adler, David A. (1989)

This memoir of the Holocaust is told through the eyes of the survivors whose stories are made all the more powerful by their matter-of-fact tone. Also included is Hitler's rise to power and the story of his campaign against the Jewish people and other minorities.

The Whirlwind, by Matas, Carol (2007)

In 1941, fourteen-year-old Ben flees Nazi Germany with his family, hoping to find stability in Seattle, but when his new friend John, a Japanese American, is sent to an internment camp, he does not feel safe anywhere.

Yours, Anne, by Metzger, Lois. (2004)

As a teenager, Anne Frank knew she wanted to be a writer. Her life was tragically cut short when she died at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Her words, though, live on through a diary she kept while hiding from the Nazis in Holland. Those words – along with memories from people who knew her – make up the pages of this moving biography. Meet Anne, a girl who managed to find herself in spite of living in the most unimaginable circumstances.