

RECOMMENDED HOLOCAUST BOOKS FOR GESHER FAMILIES

Available in the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center

FICTION:

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *The Boy Who Dared: A Novel Based on the True Story of a Hitler Youth*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780439680134

A powerful work of historical fiction portraying key moments in the life of a real German teenager during World War II. As he waits in prison, Helmuth Hubener reflects on events that led to the day of his execution for the crimes of listening to foreign newscasts, creating and distributing pamphlets, and for his resistance to the Nazi Party. **See also: *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*.**

Chapman, Fern Schumer. *Is It Night or Day?* New York: Farrar Straus Giroux/Macmillan, 2010. ISBN: 9780374177447

Based on the author's mother's experiences, this is an honest and moving account of a twelve-year-old girl who leaves her parents behind to travel to America with the assistance of the One Thousand Children Project, a group whose goal was to rescue German children during the Holocaust. **See also: *Lost and Found: 8th Graders Reunite Two Holocaust Survivors* on DVD.**

Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half-Human*. Translated by Doris Orgel. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN: 0689857470

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.

Dogar, Sharon. *Annexed*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010. ISBN: 9780547501956

While Anne Frank's story is well known, what about Peter Van Pels, the teenage boy who hid with her? This fictionalized account begins in the Mauthausen concentration camp as Peter reflects back on his life in the Annex and his romantic relationship with the iconic diarist. **See also: *The Boy Who Loved Anne Frank* by Ellen Feldman and *Margot* by Jillian Cantor.**

Engle, Margarita. *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*. New York: Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2009. ISBN: 9780805089363

Newbery Honor Winner Engle continues to illuminate the lesser known history of Cuba -- the challenge of German refugees seeking a new home after Kristallnacht. Free verse in the voices of a German boy, a Cuban girl, and a Russian immigrant paint different perspectives of a complicated political and historical era. **See also: *Enchanted Air: A Memoir*.**

Fleischman, Sid. *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*. New York: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2007. ISBN: 0061344451

When the spirit of a 12-year old Jewish boy, murdered by the Nazis, possesses the body of an American GI traveling through Europe as a second-rate ventriloquist, the pair is able to unmask the Nazi responsible.

Friedman, D. Dina. *Escaping into the Night*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN: 1416902589

When her mother and others do not come back from work, Halina is forced to deal with her absence and escape from the ghetto to save her own life. She joins the partisans in the woods, and survives World War II by using her wits and inner strength. **See also: *The Bielski Brothers* by Peter Duffy and the movie *Defiance*.**

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. New York: Scholastic, 2017. ISBN: 9780545880831

The journeys of three different young refugees from Nazi Germany, 1990s Cuba and present-day Syria come together to form an emotional and timely narrative about the refugee experience. **See also: *To Hope and Back* by Kathy Kacer, *The Other Half of Life* by Kim Ablon Whitney and *Refuge Denied: The St. Louis Passengers and the Holocaust* by Sarah Ogilvie and Scott Miller.**

Iturbe, Antonio. *The Librarian of Auschwitz*. Translated by Lilit Thwaites. New York: Godwin Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company, 2017. ISBN: 9781627796187

This powerful story of Dita Kraus and her protection of a handful of books in the Auschwitz concentration camp shows the importance of hope in the darkest of times.

Kaurin, Marianne. *Almost Autumn*. Translated by Rosie Hedger. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic, 2017. ISBN: 9780545889650

Ilse Stern's is stood up for what was to be her first date with her crush and neighbor Hermann Rod, and things get more complicated from there. Hermann joins the resistance and Ilse's family faces the anti-Semitism of Quisling's Norway during World War II. Will first love triumph?

Lieberman, Leanne. *Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust*. Olympia, WA: Orca Book Publishers, 2013. ISBN: 9781459801097

Seventeen-year-old Lauren doesn't want to be Jewish anymore. She is tired of Holocaust memoirs and Jewish summer camps. She believes Judaism is all about sadness, persecution, and loss. But when her friends start playing Nazi War games, Lauren realizes that her heritage is more important than she realized.

Macdonald, Maryann. *Odette's Secrets*. New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2013. ISBN: 9781599907505

After the Nazis invade Paris, Odette is sent to live with a Catholic family in the countryside. In order to stay safe, she must shed her Jewish identity. Based on a true story and told in free verse poetry, Macdonald tells the story of a young girl burdened by loss and secrets.

Meyer, Susan Lynn. *Black Radishes*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780385738811

Shortly before France is invaded, Gustave and his parents flee Paris for the countryside. Lonely for the friends he left behind, Gustave also faces anti-Semitism at school and an uncertain future while the family waits for visas to immigrate to America. The sequel, *Skating with the Statue of Liberty*, continues Gustave's story in New York.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Stones in Water*. New York: Dutton Books, 1997. ISBN: 0141306009

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 sequel, *Fire in the Hills*, continues Roberto's story as a member of the resistance.

Pearl, Sydelle. *Wordwings*. Montreal: Guernica Editions, 2017. ISBN: 9781771831963

In 1941, twelve-year-old Rivke Rosenfeld lives in the Warsaw Ghetto, where she witnesses German soldiers slashing her grandfather's beard from his face. Her anger compels her to secretly write her stories and her memories in the margins of a book of fairytales by Hans Christian Andersen.

Pressler, Mirjam. *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie*. Translated by Erik J. Macki. Honesdale, PA: Front Street, 2007. ISBN: 1932425845

Seventeen-year-old Johanna Riemenschneider's idyllic, privileged childhood comes to an abrupt end when she travels to Israel with her German classmates to meet Jewish alumni of their high school who fled the town during World War II.

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2006. ISBN 076145277X

Told in verse, this is the story of Sylvia Perlmutter, one of twelve surviving children, who hid in the Lodz Ghetto with her family. **See also: *My Secret Camera: Life in the Lodz Ghetto* by Mendel Grossman.**

Schmidt, Gary. *Mara's Stories: Glimmers in the Dark*. New York: Henry Holt, 2001 ISBN: 0805067949

In the night and fog of a concentration camp, women and children gather at night to listen to stories told by a prisoner named Mara, the daughter of a rabbi. The stories are adapted from Jewish lore; the listening is an act of resistance.

Schulman, L. B. *Stolen Secrets*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2017. ISBN: 9781629797229

When sixteen-year-old Livvy's mother abruptly moves them across the country to San Francisco, Livvy is surprised to come face to face with the grandmother she thought had died long ago. When she finds journal entries from the Holocaust, she begins to suspect a shocking link between her grandmother and Anne Frank.

Sharenow, Robert. *The Berlin Boxing Club*. New York: Harper Teen, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-0615-7968-4

In 1936 Berlin, 14-year-old Karl Stern, considered Jewish despite a non-religious upbringing, learns to box from the legendary Max Schmeling while struggling with the realities of the Holocaust.

Thor, Annika. *A Faraway Island*. Translated by Linda Schenck. New York: Delacorte Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780385736176

Stephie and Ellie Steiner are sent from Vienna to Sweden to escape the Nazi threat, and must adjust to life on a small island off the mainland. Stephie comes of age as she meets the challenge of a new culture, a strict foster mother, and the worries about family in Austria. The series continues with *The Lily Pond* and *Deep Sea*.

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. ISBN: 0375831002

Death narrates the story of Leisl Meminger, a Lutheran girl in Nazi Germany who sustains herself and those close to her with her love of books and reading. An engaging story that resonates with the full spectrum of human emotions and experiences. **Also available on DVD.**

GRAPHIC NOVELS:

Heuvel, Eric. *A Family Secret*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Younger Readers/Macmillan, 2009. ISBN: 978037432271/9780374365172

Helena tells her grandson Jeroen about her experiences during the German occupation and how she lost both her father and her best friend Esther at the hands of the Nazis. In the sequel, *The Search*, Esther tells her story.

Jablonski, Carla. *Resistance*. Illustrations by Leland Purvis. New York: First Second, 2010. ISBN: 9781596432918

Paul must help his family run their hotel while his father is being held by the Nazi authorities. But when his best friend Henri, who is Jewish, escapes a roundup and is left behind, Paul and his sister decide to hide him and help him escape with the French Resistance. The series continues with *Defiance* and *Victory*.

Jacobson, Sid and Ernie Colon. *Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2010. ISBN: 9780809026852

This graphic novel offers a new perspective on Anne Frank's life and legacy beginning with her parents' childhoods and marriage and concluding with the publication of her diary and the effects it has had on the world.

Robbins, Trina. *Lily Renee, Escape Artist: from Holocaust Survivor to Comic Book Pioneer*. Illustrations by Anne Timmons and Mo Oh. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-7613-8114-3

Not only did Lily Wilhelm survive, she triumphed over circumstances that forced her from a loving home in pre-war Vienna, on a Kindertransport to England, to the United States and through a variety of jobs and situations to become a comic book illustrator. **Also on DVD, *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*.**

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR/PERSONAL NARRATIVE:

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN: 0689823959

The author describes her experiences during World War II when she and her family were sent to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. Bitton-Jackson continues her story in *My Bridges of Hope: Searching for Life and Love after Auschwitz* and *Hello, America*.

Borden, Louise. *His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2012. ISBN: 978-0618507559

An amazing and inspirational World War II story about how one man saved the lives of many. **See also: *My Canary Yellow Star* by Eva Wiseman, *Lost Hero: Raoul Wallenberg's Dramatic Quest to Save the Jews of Hungary* by Danny Smith, and the television mini-series *Wallenberg: A Hero's Story* on DVD.**

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning: Young Reader Edition*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2017. ISBN: 9780807067994

Frankl's best-selling work has been abridged for teen readers, with much of the discussion of scientific and philosophical references left out and more focus on the meaning of life and the meaning of suffering.

Giblin, James C. *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler*. New York: Clarion/Houghton Mifflin, 2002. ISBN: 0395903718

This outstanding biography of the 20th century's greatest monster includes information about his legacy of hatred, carried on by neo-Nazis and skinheads.

Gold, Alison Leslie. *A Special Fate: Chiune Sugihara, Hero of the Holocaust*. New York: Scholastic, 2000. ISBN: 0590395254

A biography of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese consul in Lithuania, who saved the lives of thousands of Jews during World War II by issuing visas against the orders of his superiors. **Also on DVD, *Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness*.**

Kacer, Kathy with Jordana Lebowitz. *To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of a War Criminal Trial*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2017. ISBN: 9781772600407

Lebowitz attended the first week of the trial of Oskar Groening, known as "the bookkeeper of Auschwitz." She blogged about her experience, and as the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, went through a myriad of emotions. Kacer chronicles both her account and the trial testimony.

Levine, Karen. *Hana's Suitcase: A True Story*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 2003. ISBN: 0807531480

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her. **Also available on DVD, *Inside Hana's Suitcase*.**

Leyson, Leon with Marilyn J. Harran and Elisabeth B. Leyson. *The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible on Schindler's List*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2013. ISBN: 9781442497818

The late Leon Leyson has created an inspiring memoir about his experiences during the Holocaust as one of the youngest children on Oskar Schindler's list. **See also: *I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree: A Memoir of a Schindler's List Survivor* by Laura Hillman.**

Rubin, Susan Goldman with Ela Weissberger. *The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin*. New York: Holiday House, 2006. ISBN: 0823418316

This impressively researched photographic memoir tells of a young girl from Czechoslovakia who studied with Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and participated in the children's opera Brundibar at the Terezin concentration camp during World War II. **See also: *Fireflies in the Dark: The Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin*.**

Taylor, Peter Lane and Christos Nicola. *The Secret of Priest's Grotto: A Holocaust Survival Story*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2007. ISBN: 1580132618

The amazing story of how a group of thirty-eight Jews managed to survive during World War II for nearly a year in the underground caves of the Western Ukraine is told with captivating narratives and descriptions, sharp full-color photographs, and an attractive lay-out and design. **Also available in DVD, *No Place on Earth*.**

Warren, Andrea. *Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001. ISBN: 0688174973

An inspiring account of the Holocaust experiences of Jack Mandelbaum, who survived three years as a teen in several camps.

NON-FICTION:

Bascomb, Neal. *The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013. ISBN: 9780545430999

A stunning account of the mission to capture Adolf Eichmann by an elite team of Israeli spies is dramatically brought to life.

DeSaix, Deborah Durlan and Karen Gray Ruelle. *Hidden on the Mountain: Stories of Children Sheltered from the Nazis in Le Chambon*. New York: Holiday House, 2007. ISBN: 9780823419289

A small, Protestant town in the plateau region of South Central France became an example of faith and courage during World War II when the citizens sheltered thousands of refugees, most of them Jewish, and protected them from the Nazis. **See also: *The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Saved Jews during the Holocaust*.**

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Courage and Defiance: Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors in World War II Denmark*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0545592208

This book chronicles the true stories of the brave people behind the Nazi resistance efforts and the countless lives they saved during the Holocaust. **See also: *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip Hoose and *Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews* by Ellen Levine, as well as the movies *Miracle at Midnight* and *The Danish Solution: The Rescue of the Jews in Denmark*.**

Lawton, Clive A. *Auschwitz: The Story of a Nazi Death Camp*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2002. ISBN: 07636115951

The author traces the history of Auschwitz from construction to liberation and comments on its post-war legacy in this visually powerful presentation. **See also: *The Story of the Holocaust* as well *Auschwitz Death Camp* on DVD, featuring Oprah Winfrey as she accompanies Elie Wiesel to Auschwitz.**

Rappaport, Doreen. *Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust*. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0763629762

A stirring chronicle that shares meticulously researched accounts of heroic Jews who organized to help others and sabotage the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Rogasky, Barbara. *Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust, Revised and Expanded*. New York: Holiday House, 2002. ISBN: 0823416771

An account of the tragic fate of the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust is set against a chronicle of the roots of Nazi anti-Semitism, Hitler's rise to power, World War II, and the Nazi program of extermination.

Schroeder, Peter W. and Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand. *Six Million Paper Clips*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. ISBN: 1580131697

One teacher's desire to teach about intolerance led to a three-year project in which the entire community of Whitwell, Tennessee participated, culminating in the building of a Holocaust memorial. **Also on DVD, *Paper Clips*.**

Wood, Angela Gluck and Dan Stone. *Holocaust: The Events and Their Impact on Real People*. New York: DK Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 0756625351

This comprehensive, readable, impressively visual history of the Holocaust ranges across the years from the origins of Jews, life in Europe, and the history of anti-Semitism to the post-war period, including the survivors, Nazi trials, stolen property, and concentration camps and present-day memorials. A DVD of personal testimonies from the archive of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education is included.