

## **RECOMMENDED HOLOCAUST RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN**

Rachel Kamin, Director, Temple Israel Libraries & Media Center  
5725 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
248/661-5700 or rkamin@temple-israel.org

### **BOOKS TO CONNECT WITH *HANA'S SUITCASE* BY KAREN LEVINE**

**Kushner, Tony. *Brundibar*. Illus. Maurice Sendak. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2003. ISBN: 0786809043. \$19.95. Grades 7 & up.**

Brundibar is based on a Czech opera for children that was performed fifty-five times by the children of Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp.

**Lawton, Clive. *Auschwitz: The Story of a Nazi Death Camp*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2002. ISBN: 0763615951. \$17.99. Grades 8 & up.**

A description of what happened at Auschwitz, a concentration camp in Poland used during World War II by the Nazis to gather and murder many people, mostly Jews. See also *The Story of the Holocaust*.

**Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Fireflies in the Dark: The Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin*. New York: Holiday House, 2000. ISBN: 082341681X pbk. Grades 5-8.**

Recounts how Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to children at the Terezin Concentration Camp. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**Volavkova, Hana. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942-1944* (expanded second edition). New York: Schocken Books Inc, 1993. ISBN: 0805210156. \$17.50. Grades 6 & up.**

A selection of children's poems and drawings reflecting their surroundings in Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia from 1942 to 1944.

**Watts, Irene N. and Lillian Boraks-Nemetz. *Tapestry of Hope: Holocaust Writing for Young People*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2003. ISBN: 0887766382. \$18.95. Grades 5-8.**

Offers poetry, drama, prose, and personal narratives addressing different aspects of the Holocaust, with topics ranging from the struggle to hide from the Nazis to life after the Holocaust. Includes a selection from *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine.

**Wilson, Paul, ed. *We Are Children Just the Same: Vedem, The Secret Magazine by the Boys of Terezin*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1995. ISBN: 082760534X. \$29.95. Grades 7 & up.**

From 1942 to 1944 Jewish boys imprisoned at Terezin (including George Brady and his bunk mates Kurt Kotouc and Peter Ginz) secretly produced a weekly magazine called *Vedem*. The material was saved by one boy who survived the Holocaust and it provides a poignant glimpse at the world of the boys of Terezin.

### **NON-FICTION RESOURCES**

**Berenbaum, Michael. *A Promise to Remember: The Holocaust in the Words and Voices of its Survivors*. Boston: Bulfinch Press/AOL Time Warner Book Group, 2003. ISBN: 0821228285. \$29.95. Grades 6 & up.**

An interactive history of the Holocaust offers a moving chronicle, based on the personal accounts of survivors, that ranges from the rise of the Nazis to the death camps and final liberation, accompanied by removable documents and a spoken-word audio CD.

**Levine, Ellen. *Darkness over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews*. New York: Holiday House, 2000. ISBN: 0823417557. \$14.95. Grades 5-8.**

An account of people in Denmark who risked their lives to protect and rescue their Jewish neighbors from the Nazis during World War II.

**Meltzer, Milton. *Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust*. New York: Harper and Row, 1988. ISBN: 0064461173 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

Detailing an often neglected side of the Holocaust, this study examines the courage and human decency of ordinary people who risked their lives to rescue Jews from Nazi extermination. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**Rogasky, Barbara. *Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust, Revised and Expanded*. New York: Holiday House, 2002. ISBN: 0823416771 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

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. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

### **MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY/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 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

The author describes her experiences during World War II when she and her family were sent to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers) See also *My Bridges of Hope: Searching for Life and Love After Auschwitz*.

**Gold, Alison Leslie. *A Special Fate: Chiune Sugihara, Hero of the Holocaust*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2000. ISBN: 0590395254. \$15.95. Grades 6-8.**

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. See also *Memories of Anne Frank: Reflections of a Childhood Friend*.

**Greenfeld, Howard. *After the Holocaust*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2001. ISBN: 0688177552. \$18.95 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

Eight Jewish men and women who survived the Holocaust as children talk about their experiences immediately following the war. See also *The Hidden Children*.

**Grossman, Mendel and Frank Dabba Smith. *My Secret Camera: Life in the Lodz Ghetto*. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 2000. ISBN: 0152023062. \$16.00. Grades 5-7.**

Photographs taken secretly by a young Jewish man document the fear, hardship, generosity, and humanity woven through the daily life of the Jews forced to live in the Lodz ghetto during the Holocaust.

**Linnea, Sharon. *Raoul Wallenberg: The Man Who Stopped Death*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1993. ISBN: 0827604483 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

Traces the life of the Swedish diplomat who saved Hungarian Jews during World War II and then mysteriously disappeared after the Russians occupied Budapest. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**Lobel, Anita. *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998. ISBN: 0380732858 pbk. Grades 6 & up.**

The author describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**McCann, Michelle Roehm. *Luba: The Angel of Bergen-Belsen*. Illus. Ann Marshall. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2003. ISBN: 1582460981. \$16.95. Grades 3-5.**

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

**Mochizuki, Ken. *Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story*. Illus. Dom Lee. New York: Lee & Low Books, Inc, 1997. ISBN: 1584301570. \$6.95 pbk. Grades 3-5.**

Describes the actions of a Japanese diplomat who used his powers--against the orders of his own government--to assist thousands of Jews in escaping the Nazis in Lithuania.

**Talbott, Hudson. *Forging Freedom: A True Story of Heroism During the Holocaust*. New York Putnam Publishing Group, 2000. ISBN: 0399234349. \$15.99. Grades 5-8.**

Chronicles the brave exploits of Jaap Penraat, a young Dutch man, who risked his life during World War II to save the lives of over 400 Jews.

**Warren, Andrea. *Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001. ISBN: 0060007672. \$6.99. Grades 6 & up.**

Provides the story of the Holocaust survivor who at fifteen was placed in a Nazi concentration camp and was forced to overcome intolerable conditions in order to not become a victim of Hitler's Final Solution.

## **ILLUSTRATED BOOKS**

**Bunting, Eve. *One Candle*. Illus. by K. Wendy Popp. New York: Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins, 2002. ISBN: 0060281154. Grades 4-6.**

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. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark*. Illus. Henri Sorenson. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2000. ISBN: 1561452084. \$16.95. Grades 3-5.**

Retells the story of King Christian X and the Danish resistance to the Nazis during World War II.

**Hoestlandt, Jo. *Star of Fear, Star of Hope*. Illus. by Johanna Kang. Translated from French. New York: Walker and Company, 1995. ISBN: 0802775888 pbk. Grades 2-5.**

Nine-year-old Helen is confused by the disappearance of her Jewish friend during the German occupation of Paris. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Younger Readers)

**Johnson, Tony. *Harmonica*. Illus. Ron Mazellan. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2004. ISBN: 1570915474. \$15.95. Grades 5 & up.**

Torn from his home and parents in Poland during World War II, a young Jewish boy starving in a concentration camp finds hope in playing Schubert on his harmonica.

**Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. *Keeping the Promise: A Torah's Journey*. Illus. Craig Orback. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2004. ISBN: 1580131182. \$6.95 pbk. Grades 3-6.**

A small Torah scroll passes from a Dutch rabbi, to a Bar Mitzvah boy during the Holocaust, to the first Israeli astronaut.

**Polacco, Patricia. *The Butterfly*. New York: Philomel Books, 2000. ISBN: 0399231706. \$16.99. Grades 4-6.**

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

## **FICTION**

**Ayer, Eleanor H. *Parallel Journeys*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1995. ISBN: 0689832362. \$5.99 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

Presents the stories of Eleanor Ayer, a Jewish girl who hid in the Netherlands before she was arrested and sent to Auschwitz, and Alfons, a Nazi boy who became a commander at age sixteen, in a dual tale that demonstrates Hitler's impact on German youth.

**Bat-Ami, Miriam. *Two Suns in the Sky*. Chicago: Front Street/Cricket Books, 1999. ISBN: 0142300365. \$6.99 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

After being moved from Yugoslavia to a refugee camp in New York during World War II, a Jewish boy is befriended by a local girl, but when their special friendship turns to romance, their parents demand they end the relationship.

**Bennett, Cherie & Jeff Gottesfeld. *Anne Frank and Me*. New York: Putnam's, 2001. ISBN: 0698119738. \$6.99 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

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.

**Cormier, Robert. *Tunes for Bears to Dance to*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1992. ISBN: 0440219035 pbk. Grades 6-8.**

Eleven-year-old Henry escapes his family's problems by watching the woodcarving of Mr. Levine, an elderly Holocaust survivor, but when Henry is manipulated into betraying his friend he comes to know true evil. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**French, Jackie. *Hitler's Daughter*. New York: HarperCollins, 2003. ISBN: 0060086521. \$15.99. Grades 4-6.**

After hearing a fictional tale about Hitler's daughter, Mark, an Australian boy, wonders what it would be like if someone he loved and trusted turned out to be evil.

**Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. New York: Speak, 2002. ISBN: 014130636X. \$6.99 reissue pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

A 12-year-old Jewish girl is forced to confront both personal and political demons in her life when German prisoners-of-war arrive in her Arkansas community. See also *Morning Is a Long Time Coming*.

**Levitin, Sonia. *Room in the Heart*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2003. ISBN: 0525468714. \$16.99. Grades 6 & up.**

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.

**Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989. ISBN: 0440227534 reissue pbk. Grades 3-6.**

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. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers)

**Maguire, Gregory. *The Good Liar*. New York: HarperCollins Juvenile Books, 2002. ISBN: 0064408744 \$5.95 reprint pbk. Grades 5-8.**

To the dismay of their devout and gentle mother, three French brothers delight in telling outrageous lies. When Jews are hidden in their village after the fall of Paris, lying is no longer a game.

**Matas, Carol. *Daniel's Story*. New York: Scholastic, 1993. ISBN: 0590465880. \$4.99 pbk. Grades 6-8.**

Daniel, whose family suffers as the Nazis rise to power in Germany, describes his imprisonment in a concentration camp and his eventual liberation. See also *Lisa's War*, *Jesper*, *In My Enemy's House*, and *Greater Than Angels*.

**Mazer, Norma Fox. *Good Night, Maman*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1999. ISBN: 0064409236. \$5.99. Grades 4-8.**

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.

**Napoli, Donna Jo. *Stones in Water*. New York: Dutton Books, 1997. ISBN: 0141306009 pbk. Grades 6-8.**

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. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers)

**Orgel, Doris. *The Devil in Vienna*. New York: Penguin USA, 1978. ISBN: 014032500X reissue pbk. Grades 4-6.**

A Jewish girl and the daughter of a Nazi have been best friends since they started school, but in 1938 the thirteen-year-olds find their close relationship difficult to maintain. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner)

**Orlev, Uri. *The Island on Bird Street*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984. ISBN: 0395616239 reissue pbk. Grades 6-8.**

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 constantly life-threatening conditions. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers) Also available on VHS. See also *The Man from the Other Side* and *Run, Boy, Run*.

**Propp, Vera. *When the Soldiers Were Gone*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1999. ISBN: 0698118812 pbk. Grades 3-5.**

After the German occupation of the Netherlands, Benjamin leaves the Christian family with whom he had been living and is reunited with his real Jewish parents who returned from hiding and whom Benjamin doesn't remember. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**Rosen, Sybil. *Speed of Light*. New York: Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN: 0689841515 pbk. Grades 5-8.**

An eleven-year-old Jewish girl living in the South during the 1950s struggles with the anti-Semitism and racism which pervade her small community. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers)

**Schmidt, Gary. *Mara's Stories*. New York: Henry Holt, 2001. ISBN: 0805067949. \$16.95. Grades 6 & up.**

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.

**Schnur, Steven. *The Shadow Children*. Illus. by Herbert Tauss. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1994. ISBN: 0688138314. Grades 4-6.**

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. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers)

**Taylor, Marilyn. *Faraway Home*. Dublin, Ireland: O'Brien Press, 1999. ISBN: 0862786436. \$7.95 pbk. Grades 6-8.**

Based on true events, this is the story of Karl and Rosa, a brother and sister who escape from Nazi-occupied Vienna to Northern Ireland during World War II.

**Vos, Ida. *The Key is Lost*. Trans. by Terese Edelstein. New York: Morrow/HarperCollins, 2000. ISBN: 0688162835. Grades 5-8.**

Based on a true story, this historical fiction tells of two young sisters who get separated from their parents and are forced to live hidden away in the attics of Holland in order to escape from being caught by the Nazis. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers). See also *Dancing on the Bridge of Avignon*, *Anna Is Still Here*, and *Hide and Seek*.

**Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. New York: Viking Kestrel, 1988. ISBN: 0142401099 reissue pbk. Grades 6-8.**

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. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers) Also available on VHS.

## **POETRY**

**Patz, Nancy. *Who Was The Woman Who Wore The Hat?* New York: Dutton, 2003. ISBN: 0525469990. Grades 5 & up.**

Offers a reflection on a woman's hat that was on display in the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam that questions who the woman might have been, what her life may have been like, and how she may have ended up a Holocaust victim. (Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers)

## **MODERN ANTI-SEMITISM**

**Cohn, Janice. *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*. Illus. by Bill Farnsworth. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1995. ISBN: 0807511536 pbk. Grades 3-5.**

Describes how people in Billings, Montana joined together to fight a series of hate crimes against a Jewish family. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Younger Readers)

**Meyer, Carolyn. *Drummers of Jericho*. San Diego: Gulliver Books for Harcourt Brace, 1995. ISBN: 0152001905 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

A fourteen-year-old Jewish girl goes to live with her father and stepmother in a small town and soon finds herself the center of a civil rights battle when she objects to the high school band marching in the formation of a cross. (Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Older Readers)

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Walker's Crossing*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN: 0689842619. \$4.99 pbk. Grades 7 & up.**

While living on his family's ranch in Wyoming where he hopes to someday be a cowboy, Ryan faces conflicts with his older brother, who becomes involved in a militia movement.

**NOTE:** This is NOT a comprehensive list by any means. There are hundreds of quality fiction and non-fiction books available to help children understand and learn about the many aspects of the Holocaust. For more extensive bibliographies, refer to the Association of Jewish Libraries Bibliography Bank at [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org), the Association of Jewish Libraries Jewish Values Finder at [www.ajljewishvalues.org](http://www.ajljewishvalues.org), and the Holocaust Teacher Resource Center website at [www.holocaust-trc.org](http://www.holocaust-trc.org), or visit your local library.