LITERATURE ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST FOR CHILDREN
(SOURCED FROM THE US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM)

FICTION

  Fictional dialogue between a grandson and his grandfather, who survived the Holocaust as a child. As the grandson inquires about his great-grandparents, who perished during the Holocaust, his grandfather uses analogies from the forest around them to illustrate evil and hate. Includes questions to use when discussing the book with children. **Intended for ages 9-11.**

  A conversation between a grandfather and his granddaughter regarding the number tattooed on the man’s arm leads the man to explain how he received it in a Nazi concentration camp. The text is accompanied by photographs of the granddaughter and grandfather in addition to photographs from World War II. **Intended for ages 7-10.**

  Morris Kaplan, owner of a flower shop and Holocaust survivor, is invited by two children to their family’s Hanukkah celebration. The celebration evokes memories of Kaplan’s past and his family who perished during the Holocaust. Based on survivor testimonies. **Intended for ages 5-8.**

  A grandfather tells his grandson about his guardian angel, who protected him during the war and throughout his life. **Intended for ages 8-11.**

  Relates the story of a Dutch boy who bravely escorts the children of a resistance worker across the frozen canal to safety in Belgium. Includes pronunciation keys, the history of the great Dutch *Elfstedentocht* race, and a brief history of skating. Intended for ages 7-10.

  Imprisoned at Stalag 8A, French composer Olivier Messiaen and three other musicians work together to compose the quartet *Music for the End of Time*, performing for the inmates and inspiring hope in hopeless circumstances. Based on a true story. **Intended for ages 8-11.**

  As a family gathers to celebrate Hanukkah, a grandmother and her sister retell the story of how they managed to observe Hanukkah in a German concentration camp, with only a potato and margarine for a candle. A fictional narrative based on historical events. **Intended for ages 5-8.**

  An allegory of the Holocaust in which the forest animals are taken away by the non-descript Terrible Things. **Intended for ages 4-8.**
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  A young girl and her mother escape the Nazis in Italy by seeking haven at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in New York. Based on actual events. Includes a brief history of the Fort Ontario Shelter. Intended for ages 4-8.

  Retells the legend of King Christian X of Denmark and his efforts to resist the Nazis during World War II. Includes an author’s note about the historical accuracy of the story. Intended for ages 6-9.

  A grandmother explains the special origins behind a torn feather pillow to her grandchildren. Her story describes her childhood in Poland, the events of World War II, and the farmers who kept her safe and in hiding during the war. A fictional narrative based on actual events. Intended for ages 5-8.

  A Holocaust allegory in which birds of different species destroy each other out of prejudice and hate. The newborn children are left alone to re-build society and discover common ground. Intended for ages 4-8.

  Reproduces a children’s book drawn in Theresienstadt for three-year-old Tommy. Illustrates every-day situations, in addition to his father’s hopes and dreams for Tommy. Includes a forward by now-grown Tommy.

  Relates the story of a small Torah scroll stolen and desecrated by the Nazis and follows its fate after the war. Intended for ages 4-8.

  The story of a Torah scroll created in a small Czech community, seized by Nazis, and rediscovered twenty years later. Intended for ages 9-12.

  A fictional story of a boy who was also a star, depicted by the Star of David. As the other stars are swept away in the night by star-hunters, he goes into hiding. When the night is over, he steps out into the light and relearns how to shine. Includes an introduction by David A. Adler. Intended for ages 8-12.

As resistance workers smuggle food into the Warsaw ghetto, another group of workers, including one brave young girl, enlist the help of the neighborhood cats to distract the Gestapo and their dogs from discovering the resistance work. **Intended for ages 8-12.**

  A fictional narrative of an elderly Parisian women reflecting upon her childhood friendship with her friend Lydia, who had to wear a yellow star and disappeared one night with her family. **Intended for ages 6-10.**

  A young German girl's curiosity leads her to discover a concentration camp in her town. She smuggles food to starving children, however her heroism comes at great sacrifice. **Intended for ages 9-12.**

  Smuggling a harmonica into a concentration camp, a young boy finds strength in playing the Schubert melodies he listened to with his family before the war. He survives the Holocaust by performing for the commandant of the concentration camp and, inadvertently, for his fellow prisoners. Inspired by a true story. **Intended for ages 8-12.**

  Based upon a true story, an American family heads up a relief effort to send shoes and supplies to those suffering in post-World War II Germany. Includes images of actual shoe tracings and photographs. **Intended for ages 9-12.**

  Relates the story of a Lithuanian family’s flight to Canada, told from the perspective of the children. After they are issued visas from Chiune Sugihara, the family has the opportunity to flee the country, however they must make a dangerous journey across occupied Europe before reaching safety. Includes illustrations, photographs, an epilogue, and a glossary. **Intended for ages 8-11.**

  An allegory of survival, conquering fear, and hope, depicted through the story of four butterflies trying to hide from a menacing beetle and the help they find along the way. Text in Yiddish and English. **Intended for ages 5-8.**

  Beginning with a brief summary of the events of World War II, the narrative turns to describe the destruction of a forest as an allegory for the destruction of Jewish life during the Holocaust. Includes photographs and illustrations. **Intended for ages 8-12.**

  Based on the opera performed by the children in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, *Brundibar* tells the
story of two children seeking help for their ailing mother. When the villain Brundibar chases them away, they receive the assistance of three talking animals and three hundred school children who help to defeat him. **Intended for ages 5-8.**


Set in a post-World War II Jewish neighborhood, eight-year-old Sarah sets off to buy ingredients for her mother's birthday cake. Arriving at the store owned by Holocaust survivors, she is struck by and scared of the numbers tattooed on their arms. As they develop a relationship, she learns that although the event is in the past, it must never be forgotten. **Intended for ages 6-11.**


A girl recalls her childhood in Nazi-occupied France, where her family struggled for food and prayed for help and rescue. When a paratrooper lands in their yard, the children must help save his life. Inspired by a true story. **Intended for ages 9-11.**


The son of antique shop owners, Willy becomes fast-friends with Max and his Jewish family when they come to the store and purchase a special painting. However, Willy's family must flee with the approach of the war, hiding the painting at the store. Set in Antwerp, Belgium during World War II. **Intended for ages 9-12.**


Tells the story of Rachel and her family, who experience increasing hardships in their town because they are Jewish. Inspired by actual events. **Intended for ages 5-9.**

- **Nivola, Claire A. Elisabeth.** New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1997. An older woman reminisces about her childhood in Germany and her favorite doll, which she had to leave behind when her family fled to the United States. Years later, while shopping for a doll for her own daughter, she makes a remarkable discovery. Based on a true story. **Intended for ages 5-8.**


- **Patz, Nancy. Who was the Woman Who Wore the Hat?** New York: Dutton Books, 2003. Inspired by a hat at the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam, the author wonders about the life of the hat's original owner. Includes a chronology of the Holocaust. **Intended for ages 5-8.**

- **Polacco, Patricia. The Butterfly.** New York: Philomel Books, 2000. During the Nazi occupation of France, Monique discovers her mother is hiding a Jewish family in the basement, including a young girl her age. As a friendship develops between them, her mother attempts to help the family escape to freedom. Based on a true story. **Intended for ages 6-9.**


A Jewish family living as Catholics during World War II secretly practice their faith, journeying up a mountain to join a secret Seder meal. The older generation teaches the younger generation about the significance behind each element of the meal. Includes an explanation of the individual elements of the Seder plate and brief bibliographies of children’s books related to topics covered in the story. Intended for ages 5-8.

  Best friends Judith and Lisa are school children when Hitler comes to power. When National Socialist ideology is introduced at school, the children begin to make fun of Judith because she is Jewish. Lisa stands beside her although their friendship becomes increasingly strained, and one day Judith disappears. Intended for ages 4-8.

  When an elderly traveling salesman visits a family’s house during Hanukkah, the family invites him to join in the lighting of the Hanukkah candles. When the ceremony reminds him of his family, he tells the children about his village’s Hanukkah traditions and how he lost his family during the war. Includes a glossary of traditional terms related to Hanukkah. Intended for ages 5-8.

  In the midst of their suffering, two young friends celebrate Hanukkah in a concentration camp. As they light their sole candle, the stars of heaven celebrate with them. Includes a glossary of religious terms. Intended for ages 4-8.

  Relates the author’s experiences on the Kindertransport, a rescue effort that brought Jewish children to England between 1938 and 1940. Intended for ages 5-8.

  As a family gathers for the Hanukkah celebration, the grandchildren beg their grandmother to tell them the story of the children’s menorah on the windowsill. The grandmother relates the story of how she and other concentration camp inmates carefully gathered spoons to create a menorah for the children to observe the holiday. Based on a true story. Intended for ages 4-8.

  Mia, a twelve-year-old girl, learns to crochet so that she can recreate the lace collar her grandmother wears in the family’s only remaining photograph of her. Intended for ages 8-11.

  Erika, a grown woman, knows very little about her past. Thrown as a baby from a transport train, she was rescued by a bystander and given a name. Here she attempts to fill in the gaps of her past, reflecting upon her deepening roots and current family. Intended for ages 8-11.

  Based on actual events, a young boy and his family escape the Vilnius ghetto and immigrate to Israel. As they create a new home, they begin planting a grove of trees and cultivating the land. Intended for ages 4-8.
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  During Purim a rabbi recounts the story of Esther to a group of children, forcing Nazi soldiers to wait while he finishes the story. **Intended for ages 8-11.**
  Set in Bergen-Belsen a few days before liberation, the women of the camp gather scraps of cloth to create toys for the surviving children as they await the liberating army. **Intended for ages 9-11.**

NON-FICTION

  A chronological history of children before and during the Holocaust in which simple text accompanies photographs of children taken from the archives of Yad Vashem. **Intended for ages 8-12.**
  The true story of Froim Baum, who was placed in an orphanage after the death of his father, forced into the Warsaw Ghetto, and transported to Dachau, where he survived the war. **Intended for ages 8-11.**
  Biography of Janusz Korczak, director of a Jewish orphans’ home in Warsaw. Relates the story of Korczak’s faithfulness to these children and their ultimate fates at the hands of the Nazis. Includes a selected bibliography. **Intended for ages 8-10.**
  The true story of Lore Baer who survived the Holocaust in hiding with a family of Dutch farmers. The narrative includes descriptions of Baer’s life in Amsterdam before the war, her experiences in hiding, and what happened to her and her family after the war. **Intended for ages 5-8.**
  Traces the life of Anne Frank and her family, who hid from the Nazis in an attic in Amsterdam. Extensively illustrated, including diagrams of the hiding place and depictions of the Frank’s family life, transport cars, and a concentration camp. **Intended for ages 5-8.**
  Hiroki Sugihara, the son of Chiune Sugihara, recounts his childhood in Lithuania, where his father worked for the Japanese consulate, describing his father’s efforts to save thousands of Jewish refugees. Includes extensive family photographs, an epilogue, and glossary. **Intended for ages 5-8.**
  The true story of Holocaust survivor Kurt Baum, recorded and written by students of Cardinal Mooney High School. The story outlines Baum’s childhood and his remarkable survival in several concentration camps.
Illustrated by children who heard his story and expressed their impressions of the Holocaust through drawing.


  The true story of humanitarian Elsie Leitz, a Ukrainian woman who was imprisoned for helping Jews escape to Switzerland. Accompanied by black and white photographs. **Intended for ages 8-10.**

  Illustrated history of the Jewish people, including the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, with an emphasis on the importance of Holocaust remembrance. **Intended for ages 5-8.**

  Encouraged by her family to record her story, survivor Esther Nisenthal Krinitz chose to capture her memories in vivid embroidered pictures. Published in this volume, these pictures depict her community in Mniszek before the war, the arrival of the Nazis, the deportation of family members, and her own story of escape and survival. Each picture includes Krintz’s own narrative caption with additional paragraphs written by her daughter. Includes a note on the artworks and an introduction. **Intended for ages 11-14.**

  Relates the true story of a Torah scroll that began in the hands of Dutch Rabbi Simon Dasberg, then passed on to fellow concentration camp inmate and future professor Joachim Joseph, who read from the scroll during his secret bar mitzvah ceremony, and finally into the hands of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who took the scroll with him aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Includes photographs of the Torah scroll, Professor Joseph, and Ilan Ramon. **Intended for ages 6-9.**

  Biography of Hana Brady, a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust. Describes how a suitcase bearing Hana’s name arrived at a Holocaust education center in Japan, and how a curator there discovered Hana’s story. **Intended for ages 9-12.**

  Based on the true story of nurse Luba Tryszynska-Frederick, an inmate at Bergen-Belsen, who risked her life to help fifty-four children survive the camp. Includes photographs of the children, both on the day of their liberation and at a 55-year reunion. **Intended for ages 7-9.**
   Biographical account of the life of Anne Frank, told through a simple narrative and brightly colored illustrations. *Intended for ages 8-10.*

   Isaac Millman narrates his story of hiding in France during World War II. The narration alternates between text and full-pages illustrations. Includes photographs of family members. *Intended for ages 8-12.*

   Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese Diplomat in Lithuania in 1940, issued more than 2,000 transit visas to Jewish refugees. His story, told here through the eyes of his five-year old son, depicts his endeavor in detail. Includes an afterward, written by Sugihara’s son, Hiroki. *Intended for ages 7-10.*


   The story of Anne Frank, told through a simple narrative. Includes a chronology and brief history of what happened to the diary after the war. *Intended for ages 7-10.*

   A biography of Ela Stein, who survived the Terezin camp and played the cat in the play Brundibár. Includes photographs, source notes, and a bibliography of works suitable for young readers, articles, videos/DVDs, sound recordings, interviews, and Internet sites. *Intended for ages 8-11.*

   Relates the life of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, an artist, teacher, and eventual prisoner at the Terezin concentration camp, who worked with the children through art. Describes her experience and the experiences of her students in the camp. Includes an extensive bibliography and an index. *Intended for ages 8-12.*

   The true story of an American flag made by Mauthausen survivors to welcome the American liberators. The detailed narrative also outlines the history of Mauthausen, quoting from survivors, including Simon Wiesenthal. *Intended for ages 8-10.*

• Russo, Marisabina. *Always Remember Me: How One Family Survived World War II*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005. As a grandmother goes through a photo album with her granddaughter, she relates the miraculous story of her survival during the Holocaust as well as the survival
of her three daughters, one of whom is the child’s mother. Includes a glossary of words not defined in the story. **Intended for ages 7-9.**

- **Schroeder, Peter W., and Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand. Six Million Paper Clips: The Making of a Children’s Holocaust Memorial.** Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2004. To help students to comprehend the magnitude of the Holocaust, teachers at Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee designed a project to have the students collect six million paper clips. This book documents their endeavor, which spanned many countries and resulted in the making of a Children's Holocaust Memorial. Includes photographs and an index. **Intended for ages 9-12.**

- **Steele, D. Kelley. Would You Salute?** Illustrated by Becky Hyatt Rickenbaker. Statesville, NC: Hidden Path Publications, 2005. Based on the true story of Margot, a child of an interfaith marriage, and her parents during World War II. In school, Margot is taught how to salute Hitler and given a Nazi uniform. However, when her Jewish father loses his medical practice, her mother explains to her what Hitler actually represents. Margot must choose whether she will still salute. As the story continues to follow the fate of her family, the narrative encourages the reader to ask themselves what they would have done in her situation. Includes a biography of Margot, including pictures of her family. **Intended for ages 8-10.**

**SPANISH / EN ESPAÑOL**

