



Recommended Shoah Books for Elementary Students

***NOTE:** I would not give these books to children with no background to read independently. They need to be read with a knowledgeable adult allowing for time to ask questions and have discussions. They should also not be taught in LIT Circles. Students need adult guidance through this content.*

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

The Number on My Grandfather's Arm- David A. Adler

My Canary Yellow Star- Eva Wiseman

No One Must Know- Eva Wiseman

Kanada- Eva Wiseman

Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Heroes of the Holocaust True Stories of Rescues by Teens

Mara Bovsun, Allan Zullo

HIDDEN: A CHILD'S STORY OF THE HOLOCAUST by Loïc Dauvillier, Greg Salsedo, and Marc Lizano.

We Had To Be Brave by Deborah Hopkinson

Ten Thousand Children- Anne L. Fox Eva Abraham-Podietz

And God Cried, Too-Marc Gelman

The Secret Seder- Doreen Rappaport

Star of Fear, Star of Hope -Jo Hoestlandt

Eva's journey: A young girl's true story by Hava Ben Zvi

Tell no one who you are: The hidden childhood of Regine Miller

Fireflies in the dark: The story of Fridl Dicker-Brandeis and the children of Terezin

The light of days: The untold story of women resistance fighters in Hitler's ghettos (young reader's edition) by Judy Batalion

White Bird: A Wonder Story: R.J. Palacio (text) & illus. by R.J. Palacio. Knopf. 2019.

Gr 4-6—In this graphic novel that's a part of Palacio's "Wonder" universe, Sarah's happy life in France changed in the summer of 1940, under German occupation. One day Nazi soldiers arrive at school to take the Jewish children; Sara is rescued by a classmate who leads her to safety. In hiding, she becomes friends with a boy who uses crutches to walk because his legs were affected by polio.—*SLJ* review by Mindy Rhiger

The Sydney Taylor Book Award is presented annually by the Association of Jewish Libraries to select children and teens Holocaust-themed books, which accurately reflect Jewish experiences.

For their entire award list (well beyond Holocaust-themed texts) [click here](#).

For Grade 7 and up: a selection of Holocaust-related books recommended by the Association of Jewish Libraries for youth/middle schoolers, please see below.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow. Susan Campbell Bartoletti. Scholastic. 2005.

Gr 7-10—This well-researched, large-format book describes the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, and World War II and its aftermath, through the eyes of 12 ordinary young people in Germany, including those who participated in the Hitler Youth movement and those who resisted. In *The Boy Who Dared*, a 2009 Notable Book for Older Readers, Bartoletti turned one episode from *Hitler Youth* into a thought-provoking novel. (Nonfiction, 2006 Notable Book for Older Readers)

The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi. Neal Bascomb. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. 2013.

Gr 8 Up—With maps, photographs, and notes, Bascomb delivers a dramatic account of how an elite team of Israeli spies tracked down and prosecuted Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann, who was living in Argentina under an alias. (Nonfiction, 2014 Award Winner for Teen Readers)

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust. Livia Bitton-Jackson. S. & S. 1997.

Gr 8 Up—The author describes her experiences during World War II, when she and her family were sent to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz (Nonfiction, 1997 Honor Book for Older Readers). Bitton-Jackson continued her story in *My Bridges of Hope: Searching for Life and Love After Auschwitz*, a 1999 Notable Book for Older Readers, and *Hello, America: A Refugee's Journey from Auschwitz to the New World* (both S. & S., 1999, 2005).

Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust. Loïc Dauvillier. tr. from French by Alexis Siegel. illus. by Marc Lizano & Greg Salsedo. First Second. 2014.

Gr 4-8—In this work of graphic nonfiction, a Jewish woman shares with her granddaughter her experiences hiding in Nazi-occupied France during the Holocaust. Though the gray and brown palette sets a dark tone, images and text combine for a gentle introduction to the Holocaust for elementary and middle grade readers. (Fiction, 2015 Award Winner for Older Readers)

Someday We Will Fly. Rachel deWoskin. Viking. 2019.

Gr 8 Up—A 15-year-old girl escapes Warsaw with her father and baby sister in 1940. They find refuge with other Jewish refugees in Shanghai but face poverty, hunger, boredom, loneliness, worry, fear, and humiliation. Andrea Alban Gosline's *Anya's War* (Feiwel & Friends, 2011) and Kathy Kacer's *Shanghai Escape* (Second Story, 2013) also tell the story of the Jewish community in Shanghai during World War II.

Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation. Adapted by Ari Folman. Illus. by David Polonsky. PRH/Pantheon. 2018.

Gr 8 Up—This graphic novel brings Anne Frank's diary to vivid life. Though the fear Anne and the other residents of the Secret Annex experienced is palpable, so are the moments of boredom and even humor—readers will be reminded that these were real people. (Nonfiction, 2019 Notable Book for Older Readers)

The Librarian of Auschwitz. Antonio Iturbe. Tr. From Spanish by Lilit Thwaites. Godwin/Henry Holt. 2017.

Gr 8 Up—Conveying the importance of hope even during the darkest hour, this powerful story is loosely based on the life of 14-year-old Dita Kraus, who took possession of a handful of books smuggled into the Auschwitz concentration camp. (Fiction, 2018 Award Winner for Teen Readers)

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

Gr 7 Up—The granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Lebowitz blogged about attending the first week of the trial of Oskar Groening, a member of the German SS known as "the bookkeeper of Auschwitz." This stirring work chronicles both Lebowitz's account and the trial testimony. (Nonfiction, 2018 Honor Book for Teen Readers)

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List. Leon Leyson with Marilyn J. Harran & Elisabeth B. Leyson. Atheneum. 2013.

Gr 4-9—With this inspiring memoir, the late Leyson shares his experiences as one of the youngest children on Oskar Schindler's list; Leyson's father, who worked for Schindler, escaped the camps (Nonfiction, 2014 Honor Book for Older Readers). Also see *My Survival: A Girl on Schindler's List* by Joshua M. Greene & Rena Finder (Scholastic, 2019).

A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust. Albert Marrin. Random House. 2019.

Gr. 7 Up—A pediatrician nicknamed the Old Doctor, Korczak cared for orphans in the Warsaw ghetto. Tragically, a Nazi patrol sent everyone in the orphanage to Treblinka and none survived. This fascinating work will terrify and educate readers about the dangers of autocracy and racism.—*SLJ* review by Katherine Koenig

Irena's Children: Young Readers Edition: A True Story of Courage. Tilar J. Mazzeo. Adapt. by Mary Cronk Farrell. S. & S./Margaret K. McElderry. 2016.

Gr 6-10—Irena Sendler was a Christian Polish woman who rescued thousands of Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto (Nonfiction, 2017 Notable Book for Older Readers). Sendler's story is also portrayed in two excellent picture books, *Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto* (Holiday House, 2011), a 2012 Notable Book for Older Readers by Susan Goldman

Rubin, illustrated by Bill Farnsworth, and *Irena's Jars of Secrets*, a 2012 Honor Book for Older Readers by Marcia Vaughan, illustrated by Ron Mazellan (Lee & Low, 2011).

It Rained Warm Bread: Moishe Moskowitz's Story of Hope. Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet and Hope Anita Smith. Illustrated by Lea Lyon. Henry Holt. 2019.

Gr 5-8—This potent novel in verse tells the story of Moskowitz-Sweet's father, who was sent to the concentration camps when the Nazis invaded Poland. Despite the cruelty he endures, he's reminded of humanity's capacity for good, too. Watercolor wash sketches accompany the poems.

Resistance. Jennifer A. Nielsen. Scholastic. 2018.

Gr 6-10—When her family is uprooted in Nazi-occupied Poland, teenager Chaya Linder is determined to make a difference. Chaya works as a courier to Jews trapped in various ghettos throughout Poland, bringing them food and supplies and smuggling out children. When she is forced to flee North, she takes part in the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, helping the rebellion's leader, Mordechai Anielewicz. (Fiction, 2019 Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust. Doreen Rappaport. Candlewick. 2012.

Gr 6 Up—The authors highlight 21 stories of resistance and defiance by Jewish adults and children during the Holocaust. Five years of research resulted in an important informational book, with back matter that includes a pronunciation guide, chronology, source notes, detailed bibliography, and an index. (Nonfiction, 2013 Honor Book for Teen Readers)

Yellow Star. Jennifer Roy. Marshall Cavendish. 2006.

Gr 5-9—Told in verse, this is the story of Sylvia Perlmutter, one of only 12 surviving children of the Lodz Ghetto in Poland. She and her family were among the 245,000 Jews forced to live there under Nazi rule (Fiction, 2007 Honor Book for Older Readers). Pair with *My Secret Camera: Life in the Lodz Ghetto* by Frank Dabba Smith with photographs by Mendel Grossman (Gulliver Books, 2000).

The Berlin Boxing Club. Robert Sharenow. Harper Teen. 2011.

Gr 9 Up—Karl Stern, an assimilated 14-year-old Jew living in 1930s Berlin, becomes the unlikely student of Max Schmeling, a boxing champion and source of German pride. This coming-of-age novel entwines Karl's personal struggles with historical events as he tries to protect his family. Well-developed characters and a tense plot propel this page-turner. (Fiction, Award Winner for Teen Readers)

What the Night Sings. Vesper Stamper. Illus. by Vesper Stamper. Knopf. 2018.

Gr 7 Up—This beautifully illustrated novel tells the story of teen Holocaust survivor Gerta Rausch, who finds out she is Jewish on the day she is taken to a concentration camp with her

father. Gerta plays the viola with an orchestra at the camp and struggles to reconcile her identity and desires in the wake of tragedy. (Fiction, 2019 Award Winner for Teen Readers)

The Book Thief: Markus Zusak. Knopf. 2006.

Gr 8 Up–Death narrates the story of Leisl Meminger, a Lutheran girl in Nazi Germany who sustains herself and those close to her, including the Jewish man hidden in her basement, with her love of books and reading. This engaging story conveys the full spectrum of human emotions and experiences. The 10th anniversary edition (published in 2016) includes 26 new pages of bonus material. (Fiction, 2007 Award Winner for Teen Readers)

Night - Elie Wiesel

Grade 9 – 12 It is 1944. The Jews of Sighet, Hungary are rounded up and driven into Nazi concentration camps. For the next terrible year, young Elie Wiesel experiences the loss of everything he loves - home, friends, family - in an agonizing journey through Birkenau, Auschwitz, Buna, and Buchenwald. The greatest tragedy of our time, told through the eyes of a 15-year old boy.