

So That We May Never Forget

Books About the Holocaust

"It really didn't make a difference whether you were woman or animal or man or whatever. You basically were a number. You were not a person. You didn't have a name. It didn't make a difference."

—Lucille Eichengreen, survivor of Auschwitz, Dessauerufer, Neungamme and Bergen-Belsen

Fiction

Anne Frank and Me YA BENNETT

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.

The Boy In the Striped Pajamas YA BOYNE

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.

Daniel, Half Human and the Good Nazi YA CHOTJEWITZ

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.

Emil and Karl YA GLATSHTEYN

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.

Torn Thread YA ISAACS

Twelve-year-old Eva and her sister have been forced to leave their home in Poland and are imprisoned in a Nazi labor camp. There they must spin thread on treacherous machinery to make clothing and blankets for the German Army. As Eva struggles amid ever worsening dangers to save her life and that of her sick sister, readers witness how two teenagers strive to create home and family amidst inhumanity and chaos.

Schindler's List KENEALLY

Based on the true story of German industrialist and war profiteer, Oskar Schindler, who, confronted with the horror of the extermination camps, gambled his life and fortune to rescue 1,300 Jews from the gas chambers. Working with the actual testimony of Schindler's Jews, Thomas Keneally artfully depicts the courage and shrewdness of an unlikely savior, a man who is a flawed mixture of hedonism and decency and who, in the presence of unutterable evil, transcends the limits of his own humanity.

In My Enemy's House YA MATAS

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.

Maus — A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History MAUS

Told with chilling realism in an unusual comic-book format, this is more than a tale of surviving the Holocaust. Spiegelman relates the effect of those events on the survivors' later years and upon the lives of the following generation. The Nazis, portrayed as cats, gradually introduce increasingly repressive measures, until the Jews, drawn as mice, are systematically hunted and herded toward the Final Solution. Vladek saves himself and his wife by a combination of luck and wits, all the time enduring the torment of hunted outcast.

Run, Boy, Run YA ORLEV

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.

Milkweed: A Novel YA SPINELLI

He's a boy called Jew. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi some day, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody.

Sophie's Choice STYRON

Three stories are told: a young Southerner wants to become a writer; a turbulent love-hate affair between a brilliant Jew and a beautiful Polish woman; and of an awful wound in that woman's past--one that impels both Sophie and Nathan toward destruction.

The Devil's Arithmetic YA YOLEN

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 Book Thief YA ZUSAK

Set during World War II in Germany, Zusak's groundbreaking novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing, encounters something she can't resist: books.

Non Fiction

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Survivor YA 940.53 OPDYKE

When World War II began, Irene Gutowna was a 17-year-old Polish nursing student. Six years later, she writes in this inspiring memoir, "I felt a million years old." The author presents her extraordinary heroism as the inevitable result of small steps taken over time, but her readers will not agree as they consume this thrilling adventure story, which also happens to be a drama of moral choice and courage.

Shadow Life: A Portrait of Anne Frank and Her Family YA 940.53 DENEN

Denenberg presents the complete story of Anne Frank and her family's life, from Frankfurt, Germany, where Anne and Margot were born before the war, up through to their murders at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. When the Franks leave Frankfurt for Amsterdam, they are hoping to find a place where they can resume a normal life, but instead, the family's freedoms are taken away bit by bit. But it is when they see that other Jews are being taken away, and sent to so-called labor camps that the Franks realize they have no choice but to go into hiding; they live in fear for 2 years.

After the Darkness: Reflections On the Holocaust 940.53 WIESEL

As the last generation of survivors is passing and a new generation must be introduced to mankind's darkest hour, Wiesel sums up the most important aspects of Hitler's years in power and provides a fitting memorial to those who suffered and perished. Augmenting Wiesel's text are testimonies from survivors, who recall, among other moments and events: the establishment of the Nurembourg Laws, Kristallnacht, transport to the camps, and liberation. Wiesel proves once again the ineluctable importance of bearing witness.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up In Hitler's Shadow J943.086 BARTO

Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people.

I Will Plant You A Lilac Tree: A Memoir of a Schindler's List Survivor YA B HILLMAN

In 1942 Berlin, Hannelore, 16, bravely volunteers to be deported with her mother and two younger brothers to Poland. Over the next three years, she is moved through eight concentration camps. In her memoir, she recounts the horrors she witnessed and experienced as she struggled to stay alive, and tells how her own instinct for survival made her the only one of her family to get out of the camps alive.

Night B WIESEL

Night is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. "Night" offers much more than a litany of the daily terrors, everyday perversions, and rampant sadism at Auschwitz and Buchenwald; it also eloquently addresses many of the philosophical as well as personal questions implicit in any serious consideration of what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be.