

8th Grade Summer Reading List Holocaust Literature

Note: We are doing something different this year and opening the school year with our research unit about the Holocaust. Although this unit usually comes later in the year, we are hoping that this will make both the reading list and the unit more meaningful for students. Students may read another book about the holocaust not on this list according to the parent/guardian's discretion. These books are recommended based on grade appropriateness and authenticity. Any books read from the previous reading list will be used during the year for other projects, reading logs, etc.

Fiction

Along the Tracks, by Tamar Bergman

Recounts the adventures of a young Jewish boy who is driven from his home by the German invasion, becomes a refugee in the Soviet Union, is separated from his family, and undergoes many hardships before enjoying a normal home again.

Daniel, Half Human: And the Good Nazi, by David 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. Also details Daniel and Armin's reunion in 1945 in interspersed chapters.

Daniel's Story, by Carol Matas

Daniel, whose family suffers as the Nazis rise to power in Germany, describes his imprisonment in a concentration camp and his eventual liberation.

The Devil's Arithmetic, by Jane Yolen

Hannah relives stories of her Jewish heritage and of the past until, when opening the door during a Passover Seder, she finds herself in Poland during World War II where she experiences the horrors of a concentration camp, and learns why she-- and we-- need to remember the past.

The Garden, by Carol Matas

After leading a group of Jewish refugees to Israel after World War II, sixteen-year-old Ruth joins the Haganah, the Jewish Army, and helps her people fight to keep the land granted to them by the United Nations.

Good Night, Maman, by Norma Fox Mazer

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.

Milkweed, by Jerry Spinelli

A street child, known to himself only as Stopthief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in Warsaw ghetto which helps him weather the horrors of the Nazi regime

Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry

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.

Stones in Water, by Donna Jo Napoli

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.

Torn Thread, by Anne Isaacs

In an attempt to save his daughter's life, Eva's father sends her from Poland to a labor camp in Czechoslovakia where she and her sister survive the war.

Nonfiction

The Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank

A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl records her impressions of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps. Includes entries previously omitted.

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

The memoirs of a Dutch woman who was sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp during World War II as a result of her activities in the anti-Nazi underground.

I Am a Star: Child of the Holocaust, by Inge Auerbacher

The author's reminiscences about her childhood in Germany, years of which were spent in a Nazi concentration camp. Includes several of her original poems.

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer, by Irene Gut Opdyke

Recounts the experiences of the author who, as a young Polish girl, hid and saved Jews during the Holocaust.

The Lost Childhood, by Yehuda Nir

Describes six years in the life of a daring and resourceful Polish Jewish boy and his family, who survived the Holocaust by using false papers and posing as Catholics.

Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History, by Art Spiegelman

The story, in comic book form, of the author's parents' experiences as Jews in Poland prior to and during WWII. Illustrations portray Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began, by Art Spiegelman

A continuation of the story begun in the Pulitzer Prize winning "Maus," in which the author relates, in cartoon form, his father's experiences as an inmate at Auschwitz during World War II.

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War, by Anita Lobel

The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards

The Upstairs Room, by Johanna Reiss

A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.

Fireflies in the Dark: The Story of Friedl Dicker Bandeis and the Children of Terezin by Susan Goldman Rubin

Covers the years during which Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to children at the Terezin Concentration Camp. Includes art created by teacher and students, excerpts from diaries, and interviews with camp survivors.

Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust by Dusan D. Bachrach

Presents the story of the Holocaust and shows how it affected the lives of innocent people throughout Europe, using artifacts, photographs, maps, and taped oral and video histories from the collections of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

A special fate : Chiune Sugihara : hero of the Holocaust by Alison Leslie Gold

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.

Heroes of the Holocaust by Arnold Geier

Contains twenty-eight true stories about people who were willing to risk their lives to save Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

*****LTMS students who participate in Lexington Public Library's summer reading program can earn double credit if the book they are reading is on a required reading list. For example, if you read a required reading book for 15 minutes, you get to check off two 15 minute boxes for a total of 30 minutes toward your 15 hour reading goal. If you complete 15 hours of reading, you will earn a paperback book of your choice, a prize bag with coupons to area businesses and attractions and an entry form for a drawing of \$25 gift cards to area stores.*****