BUILDING A CREDIBLE WORLD: THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY IN JEWISH CHILDREN’S BOOKS

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June 24, 2014
WE ENTER A PORTAL TO A NEW (OLD) WORLD
WHY IS HISTORY THROUGH LITERATURE IMPORTANT?

• Piques children’s curiosity
• Illuminates time periods
• Makes the past more relatable – humanizes the past
• Demonstrates complex issues
• Provides multiple perspectives
• Grounds us
• Connects us to the bigger world around us
BEARING THE BURDEN

• Historical fiction and nonfiction for young readers should make history come alive for young readers

• As librarians, you help them make the best choices
BARBARA’S CREDIBILITY CHECKLIST

1. Painstaking research
2. Contextual setting
3. Language
4. Tone
5. Focus
6. Characterization
7. Vetting
8. Back matter
A GAUGE OF CREDIBILITY

Number of characteristics

8

Promoters

Detractors
SOME HISTORICAL FICTION PROMOTERS

- **Hannah’s Way**
  - 2013 STBA Winner
  - By Linda Geyer
  - Illustrated by Adam Gustawson

- **The Berlin Boxing Club**
  - 2012 STBA Winner
  - By Robert Sharenow

- **The Blood Lie**
  - 2012 STBA Honor
  - By Shirley Vreeland
THE HISTORICAL FICTION GOLD STANDARD

All-of-a-Kind Family
Sydney Taylor

Introduction by Francine Prose
SOME NONFICTION PROMOTERS

2014 STBA Winner

2013 STBA Winner

2012 STBA Winner
SOME DETRACTORS: THE PROBLEM OF EXTRAPOLATING FAMILY HISTORY
Historical Nonfiction: Nonfiction is nonfiction. These books are fictionalized accounts.
SOME DETRACTORS: THE CASE OF EMMA LAZARUS
WANT TO KNOW MORE?

• Join the discussions at The Whole Megillah
  • http://thewholemegillah.wordpress.com

• Send me a note to get a copy of the presentation
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