



Using Picture Books with Older Readers: A Selective Bibliography

By Susan Dubin

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Holocaust

Abells, Chana Byers. The Children We Remember. Kar-Ben Publishing, 1983.
ISBN: 0930494202

Through moving photographs from the Yad Vashem Archives in Jerusalem, Israel, archivist Chana Byers Abells has created an unforgettable essay about the children who lived and died during the Holocaust. While it is a story of death and loss, it is also a story of courage and endurance, a story to be shared with today's children.

Bunting, Eve. Terrible Things : an allegory of the Holocaust. illustrated by Stephen Gammell. Philadelphia : Jewish Publication Society, c1989
ISBN 0827603258

In this allegory, the author's reaction to the Holocaust, the animals of the forest are carried away, one type after another, by the Terrible Things, not realizing that if perhaps they would all stick together and not look the other way, such terrible things might not happen.

Deedy, Carmen Agra. The yellow star: the legend of King Christian X of Denmark illustrated by Henri Sorensen. Atlanta, Ga. : Peachtree, 2000. ISBN 1561452084
Retells the story of King Christian X and the Danish resistance to the Nazis during World War II.

Hesse, Karen. The cats in Krasinski Square ; illustrated by Wendy Watson. New York : Scholastic Press, 2004. ISBN 0439435404

Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall.

Little Sugar, Amy. Willy and Max : a Holocaust story; illustrated by William Low. - New York, N.Y. : Philomel Books, c2006. ISBN 0399234837

In Belgium during World War II, Willy becomes friends with Max and his Jewish family, and although they become separated, they remain related by a bond of friendship and a special painting.

McCann, Michelle Roehm. Luba: The angel of Bergen-Belsen / As told to Michelle R. McCann by Luba Trzysynska-Frederick. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2003. ISBN 1582460981

A biography of the Jewish heroine, Luba Trzysynska, who saved the lives of more than fifty Jewish children in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during the winter of 1944/45.

Nerlove, Miriam. Flowers on the wall /New York : Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1996. ISBN 0-689-50614-7

Homebound by a harsh Warsaw winter and the Nazi threat, Rachel combats her boredom by painting flowers on the drab, cracked walls of her family's apartment. As the German occupation draws closer and the fate of her people grows more uncertain by the day, Rachel and her family find inspiration in the whimsical flowers that slowly take over the cramped apartment.

Patz, Nancy. Who was the woman who wore the hat? New York : Dutton Books, 2003

A meditation on a woman's hat once on display in the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam.

Polacco, Patricia. The butterfly / New York: Philomel Books, 2000. ISBN 0399231706

During the Nazi occupation of France, Monique's mother hides a Jewish family in her basement and tries to help them escape to freedom.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. The flag with fifty-six stars ; illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. New York : Holiday House, 2005. ISBN 0823416534

When members of the U.S. Army marched into Mauthausen concentration camp, they were presented with a U. S. flag that the prisoners had sewn together from scraps of sheets and jackets. Not having an American flag to look at, they added an extra row of stars.

Russo, Marisabina. Always remember me : how one family survived World War II / New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2005. ISBN 0689869207
Rachel's Oma (her grandmother) has two picture albums. In one the photographs show only happy times -- from after World War II, when she and her daughters had come to America. But the other album includes much sadder times from *before* -- when their life in Germany was destroyed by the Nazis' rise to power. For as long as Rachel can remember, Oma has closed the other album when she's gotten to the sad part. But today Oma will share it all. Today Rachel will hear about what her grandmother, her mother, and her aunts endured. And she'll see how the power of this Jewish family's love for one another gave them the strength to survive.

Waldman, Neil. The never-ending greenness / New York : Morrow Junior Books, 1997.

ISBN 0688144799

An old man recalls his childhood in the tree-lined city of Vilna, where his family escapes from the ghetto and is protected by the forests surrounding the town. Later, following immigration to Israel, the boy helps plant trees in his new desert homeland so that the country can once again become a sea of never-ending greenness.

Tolerance and Understanding

Altman, Linda Jacobs. The legend of Freedom Hill / illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. New York : Lee & Low Books, 2000. ISBN 1584300035

During the California Gold Rush Rosabel, an African American, and Sophie, a Jew, team up and search for gold to buy Rosabel's mother her freedom from a slave catcher.

Bunting, Eve. Smoky night / illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt Brace, 1994. ISBN 0-15-269954-6

When the Los Angeles riots break out in the streets of their neighborhood, a young boy and his mother learn the value of getting along with others no matter what their background or nationality.

Macaulay, David. Baaa. Houghton, 1985. ISBN 0395395887

After the last person has gone from the earth, sheep take over the world.

Maruki, Toshi, Hiroshima no pika / = Hiroshima no pika. / words and pictures by Toshi Maruki. - New York : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, c1980. ISBN 0688012973

A retelling of a mother's account of what happened to her family during the Flash that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

Michelson, Richard. Across the alley / illustrated by E. B. Lewis. New York : Putnam, 2006.

ISBN 0399239707

Jewish Abe's grandfather wants him to be a violinist while African-American Willie's father plans for him to be a great baseball pitcher, but it turns out that the boys are more talented when they switch hobbies.

Michelson, Richard. As good as anybody : Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's amazing march toward freedom / illustrated by Raul Colón. New York : A.A. Knopf, c2008.

ISBN 9780375833359

A Baptist preacher from Atlanta. A rabbi born in Poland. Their names came to stand for the struggle for justice and equality in the American civil rights movement.

Sís, Peter. The wall : growing up behind the Iron Curtain / New York : Farrar, Straus and

Giroux, 2007 ISBN 0374347018

I was born at the beginning of it all, on the Red side - the Communist side - of the Iron Curtain. Through annotated illustrations, journals, maps, and dreamscapes, Peter Sis shows what life was like for a child who loved to draw, proudly wore the red scarf of a Young Pioneer, stood guard at the giant statue of Stalin, and believed whatever he was told.

Uhlberg, Myron. The printer / illustrated by Henri Sorensen. Atlanta : Peachtree, c2003.

ISBN 1561452211

A boy recalls the day his deaf father saved everyone's life when fire broke out at the newspaper printing plant where he worked.

Heroes

Landmann, Bimba. I am Marc Chagall : text loosely inspired by My Life by Marc Chagall /

Grand Rapids, Mich. : Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN 0802853056

During prayers, he would daydream; in school he was distracted; and at home he worried about what profession he should choose. But when the young Marc Chagall realized he had artistic talent, he translated his unusual way of looking at the world into color and shape.

Markel, Michelle. Dreamer from the village : the story of Marc Chagall / illustrated by Emily Lisker. New York : H. Holt, 2005 ISBN 0805063730

Chronicles the life of Marc Chagall, a celebrated twentieth-century artist who was born in Russia.

Shulevitz, Uri, The travels of Benjamin of Tudela : through three continents in the twelfth century / New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. ISBN 0374377545

A fictionalized account of the travels of Benjamin, a Jewish man from Tudela, Spain, who, in 1159, set out on a fourteen-year-long journey that took him to Italy, Greece, Palestine, Persia, China, Egypt, and Sicily.

Silverman, Erica. Sholom's treasure : how Sholom Aleichem became a writer / pictures by Mordicai Gerstein. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, c2005. ISBN 9780374380557

Describes some events in the life of Sholom Aleichem, the Yiddish author who wrote stories about Jewish life in nineteenth-century Russia.

Immigration and Pioneer Life

Heller, Linda. The castle on Hester Street . Philadelphia : Jewish Publication Society of America, 1982. ISBN 0827602065

Julie's grandmother deflates many of her husband's tall tales about their journey from Russia to America and their life on Hester Street.

Herron, Carolivia. Always an Olivia : a remarkable family history / illustrated by Jeremy Tugeau. -

Minneapolis : Kar-Ben Pub., c2007. ISBN 9780822570493

When Carol Olivia visits her great-grandmother, she discovers the roots of her African-American heritage and hears about the many adventures of her Jewish ancestors.

Polacco, Patricia. The keeping quilt / New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c1998. ISBN 0689820909

A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family, remaining a symbol of their enduring love and faith.

Holidays

Beneduce, Ann Keay. Moses : the long road to freedom / illustrated by Gennady Spirin.

New York : Orchard Books, 2004. ISBN 0439352258

Recounts the story of the Jewish leader Moses, from his birth until his leading of the slaves out of Egypt. Based on the Torah, Modern Commentary and the King James Bible.

Bunting, Eve. One candle / illustrated by K. Wendy Popp. - New York: HaperCollins Publishers, 2002. ISBN 0-06-028115-4

Every year a family celebrates Hanukkah by retelling the story how Grandma and her sister managed to mark the day while in a concentration camp.

Dr. Seuss. The Lorax. New York: Random House, 1971.

The Once-ler describes the results of the local pollution problem.

Gerstein, Mordicai. Queen Esther the morning star / New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000. ISBN 0689813724

Retells the story of how a beautiful Jewish girl became the Queen of Persia and saved her people from death at the hands of the evil Haman.

Levine, Arthur A. Pearl Moscowitz's last stand / pictures by Robert Roth. New York :

Tambourine Books, 1993. ISBN 0-688-10773-2

Pearl Moscowitz takes a stand when the city government wants to chop down the last gingko tree on her street.

Polacco, Patricia. Tikvah means hope / Doubleday Book for Young Readers, 1994. ISBN 0-385-32059-0

After a devastating fire in the hills of Oakland, California, during Sukkoth, a Jewish family and their neighbors find symbols of hope amidst the ashes.

Stories and Philosophy

Davis, Aubrey. Bagels from Benny / illustrated by Dusan Petricic. New York: Kids Can Press Ltd, 2003. ISBN 1-55337-417-7

A young boy leaves bagels in the Holy Ark for God to say thank you for providing the raw material. A beggar asks God to give him food and finds Benny's bagels as an answer to his prayer.

Johnson-Davies, Denys. Goha the wise fool / sewing by Hany El Saed Ahmed from drawings by Hag Hamdy Mohamed Fattouh. - New York : Philomel Books, c2005. ISBN 0399242228

A collection of fourteen tales about the folk hero Nasreddin Hoca, also known as Goha, a man with a reputation for being able to answer difficult questions in a clever way.

McDermott, Beverly Brodsky. The Golem : a Jewish legend / Philadelphia : Lippincott, c1976. ISBN 0397316747

A retelling of the Jewish legend of the golem created by Rabbi Lev to protect the Jews of Prague from the angry mob.

Prose, Francine. You never know - - A legend of the Lamed-vavniks / pictures by Mark Podwal. - New York : Greenwillow Books, 1998. ISBN 0-688-15806-4

Though mocked by the rest of the villagers, poor Schmuel, the shoemaker, turns out to be a very special person.

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. God in between / illustrated by Sally Sweetland. - Woodstock, Vt. : Jewish Lights, c1998. ISBN 1879045869

When two wise people leave their lonely, confused town to find out if God really does exist, they make an amazing discovery about where God can be found.

Taback, Simms. Joseph had a little overcoat / New York : Viking, 1999. ISBN 0670878553

A very old overcoat is recycled numerous times into a variety of garments.

Zeman, Ludmila. Gilgamesh the king / Montreal, Quebec, Canada : Tundra Books, 1992.

ISBN 0-88776-283-2

Retelling of the Mesopotamian story of Gilgamesh, another flood story.

Israel

Alexander, Sue. Behold the trees / illustrated by Leonid Gore. - New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2001. ISBN 0-590-76211-7

A land once protected by all sorts of wonderful trees is reduced over time by war and environmental neglect to desert, until new inhabitants plant trees and slowly make Israel bloom again.

da Costa, Deborah. Snow in Jerusalem / illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu. - Morton Grovell : Albert Whitman & Company, 2001. ISBN 0-8075-7521-6

Although they live in different quarters of Jerusalem, a Jewish boy and a Muslim boy are surprised to discover that they have been caring for the same cat.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. The Wailing Wall / Macmillan, 1989. ISBN 0-02-735310-9

Surveys the history of the Jewish people in Palestine and their activities around the First and Second Temples, with an emphasis on events before 70 C.E.

Kuskin, Karla. Jerusalem, shining still / illustrations by David Frampton. Harper & Row, 1987.

ISBN 0-06-023549-7

Evokes the spirit of an ancient city, recalling David, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod, Hadrian, Constantine, Saladin, Suleiman, and the many groups who came to conquer, and observes that despite 3000 years of being battered, burned, and rebuilt, Jerusalem stands peacefully in the moonlight.

Morris, Ann, When will the fighting stop? : a child's view of Jerusalem / concepts and photographs by Lilly Rivlin. New York : Atheneum, 1990. ISBN 0689315082

A young Jewish boy living in Jerusalem observes all the different people who make the city their home and wonders why they can't be friends.

Rouss, Sylvia Tali's Jerusalem scrapbook / New York: Pitspopany Books, 2003. ISBN 1930143680

Tali, who lives with her family in Jerusalem, is a very disappointed when her relatives from the United States decide that they won't come to her birthday party because of the situation in Israel.