Below are all of the Holocaust titles that have been recognized by the Association of Jewish Libraries’ Sydney Taylor Book Award committee, from the award’s inception in 1968 to the current day. The list includes books whose focus is on the Holocaust as well as those in which its echoes are felt less directly. There are fiction and nonfiction titles for early childhood through middle grade through young adult readers. Each title’s recognition status and age category is provided at the end of the annotation, as well as a note of whether the book is fiction or nonfiction.

This information has been extracted from the complete list of Sydney Taylor winners, honors, and notable books available on the AJL website.

2021


Hesse, Monica. They Went Left. Boston, MA: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, 2020. ISBN: 9780316490573 A historical mystery with an unreliable narrator, this post-war page-turner is set primarily in a displaced persons camp. It tells the story of Zofia, desperately searching for her little brother Abek...and the possibility of a life after trauma. (Young Adult Honor)

Hopkinson, Deborah. We Had to Be Brave: Escaping the Nazis on the Kindertransport. New York: Scholastic Focus, an imprint of Scholastic, 2020. ISBN: 9781338255720 Hopkinson weaves together primary sources — memoirs, interviews, and photographs — to piece together the accounts of 21 children and teens who were saved from the Nazis via the Kindertransport in this meticulously researched World War II nonfiction book. Back matter includes a timeline, additional resources, source notes, and an index. (Notable Middle Grade)

Wiemer, Liza The Assignment. New York: Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House, 2020. ISBN: 9780593123164 Based on a true incident, a high school teacher assigns students to argue in favor of the Final Solution. Two students fight back, and the resulting schism rocks the school and community. (Notable Young Adult)

2020


DeWoskin, Rachel. Someday We Will Fly. New York: Viking, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Penguin Random House, 2019. ISBN: 9780670014965 In this lushly written historical novel, Lillia and her father and sister flee Warsaw during the Holocaust and take refuge in Shanghai. There, Lillia’s need to support her family, her relationships with others, and her awareness of her privilege even as a refugee all contribute to her growth. (Young Adult Award Winner)

Kacer, Kathy. Masters of Silence. Toronto: Annick Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781773212623 Jewish siblings Helen and Henry hide in a convent during the Holocaust. The theme of their need to keep silent about who they are is underscored by the help they receive from real-life mime Marcel Marceau. (Notable Middle Grade)

Ravel, Edeet. A Boy is Not a Bird. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2019. ISBN: 9781773061740 Naive but evolving narrator Natt, growing up under Communism, tells a story not usually told about events during the Holocaust. (Notable Middle Grade)


2019


Weissman, Elissa Brent. The Length of a String. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Penguin Random House, 2018. ISBN: 9780735229471 Imani’s wonderings about her past and her adoption dovetail with the diary she discovers that belonged to her great-grandmother, an evacuee during the Holocaust. A thoughtful exploration of family and Jewish identity. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Frank, Anne. Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation. Adapted by Ari Folman. Illustrated by David Polonsky. New York: Pantheon Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2018. ISBN: 9781101871799 This graphic adaptation brings Anne Frank and the other residents of the Secret Annex to life. Though it makes the fear inherent in their situation clear, it also conveys plenty of ordinary, even humorous moments, reminding readers just how real the people were. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Kacer, Kathy. The Sound of Freedom. Toronto, CA: Annick Press, 2018. ISBN: 9781554519699 As Hitler and the Nazis rise to power, Anna, the daughter of a prominent Polish clarinet player feels more and more unsafe. When she finds out that an orchestra is being formed in Palestine by musician Bronislaw Huberman, she pushes her father to audition. Though they encounter challenges, Anna and her family ultimately have hope for the future. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Nielsen, Jennifer. Resistance. New York: Scholastic, 2018. ISBN: 9781338148473 When her family is upended in Nazi-occupied Poland, teenager Chaya Linder is determined to make a difference. Circumstances send her from being a courier, to raiding Nazi supplies, to finally the biggest mission of all, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)
Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. New York: Scholastic, 2017. ISBN: 9780545880831 The journeys of three different young refugees from Nazi Germany, 1990s Cuba and present-day Syria come together to form an emotional and timely narrative about the refugee experience. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)


Kacer, Kathy with Jordana Lebowitz. *To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen’s Account of a War Criminal Trial*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2017. ISBN: 9781772600407 Lebowitz attended the first week of the trial of Oskar Groening, known as "the bookkeeper of Auschwitz." She blogged about her experience, and as the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, went through a myriad of emotions. Kacer chronicles both her account and the trial testimony. She returned to Canada and closely followed the rest of the trial (Groening was found guilty of facilitating mass murder and sentenced to four years in prison, but he died before he began his sentence). Lebowitz is now a human rights advocate. (Nonfiction, Honor Book for Teen Readers)

Kaurin, Marianne. *Almost Autumn*. Translated by Rosie Hedger. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic, 2017. ISBN: 9780545889650 Ilse Stern's is stood up for what was to be her first date with her crush and neighbor Hermann Rod, and things get more complicated from there. Hermann joins the resistance and Ilse's family faces the anti-Semitism of Quisling's Norway during World War II. Will first love triumph? (Fiction, Honor Book for Teen Readers)


Romero, R. M. *The Dollmaker of Krakow*. New York: Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2017. ISBN: 9781524715397 Fairy tale and harsh reality intertwine as Karolina the doll, is brought by a "kind wind" to the shop of Cyryl the dollmaker. They try to help violinist Josef and his daughter Rena escape the Krakow ghetto and avoid extermination by the Nazis. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)
Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man’s Search for Meaning: Young Reader Edition*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2017. ISBN: 9780807067994 Frankl's best-selling work has been abridged, with much of the discussion of scientific and philosophical references left out and more focus on the meaning of life and the meaning of suffering. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Schulman, L. B. *Stolen Secrets*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, a division of Highlights, 2017. ISBN: 9781629797229 Livvy's grandmother Adelle, whom Livvy had thought was dead, suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. As Livvy gets to know her grandmother and reads her journal entries, she learns that Adelle was in a concentration camp and may have a connection to Anne Frank. Things go awry when Livvy's mother ends up back in rehab, and Livvy and friend Franklin D. must protect Adelle. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

2017

Savit, Gavriel. *Anna and the Swallow Man*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2016. ISBN: 9780553513349 Anna is left alone in 1939 Krakow when the Nazis take her father away. She meets the mysterious Swallow Man who is able to speak “bird,” and travels with him in the forests of Poland, where they spend four years hiding and eluding capture. This is a haunting story that may be allegory or folktale or perhaps both. (Fiction, Award Winner for Teen Readers)

Gottesfeld, Jeff. *The Tree in the Courtyard: Looking Through Anne Frank’s Window*. Illustrated by Peter McCarty. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House, 2016. ISBN: 9780385753975 Lyrical text and dramatic brown-ink illustrations on creamy paper depict the story of the Frank family from the third-person perspective of the tree that stood outside Anne’s window of the attic annex. An afterword tells more: “Saplings and seedpods from Anne Frank's tree have been planted around the world.” (Fiction, Notable Book for Younger Readers)

Arato, Rona. *The Ship to Nowhere: On Board the Exodus*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2016. ISBN: 9781772600186 In this work of historical fiction set in 1947 and based on actual events, eleven-year-old Rachel, her sister, and their mother are Jewish refugees aboard the Exodus taking them to Palestine. In view of land, the ship is detained by British warships and prevented from docking. The refugees’ plight gained international attention and aid from caring individuals. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


2016

Appelfeld, Aharon. *Adam and Thomas*. Translated by Jeffrey M. Green. Illustrations by Phillipe Dumas. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2015. ISBN: 9781609806347 Adam and Thomas are two nine-year-old boys who must fend for themselves in the forest during WWll. With only minimal help, the boys live under harsh conditions, fighting for survival and experience small miracles. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)

Liang, Marcus learns to celebrate Sukkot while embracing his new surroundings and Chinese customs. (Fiction, Honor Book for Younger Readers)


Cerrito, Angela. The Safest Lie. New York: Holiday House, 2015. ISBN: 9780823433100 Nine-year-old Anna struggles to conceal and relinquish her Jewish heritage when she must pose as a Catholic girl in order to escape the Warsaw Ghetto. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Patrick Lewis, J. The Wren and the Sparrow. Illustrations by Yevgenia Nayberg. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2015. ISBN: 9781467719513 Forced to surrender their musical instruments to the Nazis, this lyrical story based on true events focuses on the story of a musician, his clever student and the miraculous preservation of a beloved hurdy-gurdy that withstands the war and sees through generations. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Thor, Annika. Deep Sea. New York: Delacorte Press, 2015. ISBN: 9780385743853 Three years earlier, Jewish sisters Stephie and Nellie were sent to live with foster families on a Swedish island. Now sixteen-years-old, Stephie deals with "typical" teen issues such as school and friends while grappling with the fact that her parents remain in an Austrian concentration camp. This is the third book about the Steiner Sisters. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

2015

Dauvillier, Loïc. Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust. Illustrated by Marc Lizano. Color by Greg Salsedo. Translated by Alexis Siege. New York: First Second, 2014. ISBN: 9781596438736 In graphic novel format, a grandmother recounts to her granddaughter her experiences as a hidden Jewish child in Nazi-occupied France during the Holocaust. The grey and brown-tinted illustrations portray a dark and scary time. However, the text and images provide a gentle introduction to the Holocaust for elementary grade and middle grade readers. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)

Perl, Lila. *Isabel’s War*. Brooklyn: New York: Lizzie Skurnick Books, an imprint of IG Publishing, 2014. ISBN: 9781939601278 Isabel is a self-centered American girl who is not happy about having to spend her summer vacation in a resort with her parents. She is even more unhappy when she finds out she will have to share her room with Helga, a beautiful German girl. Gradually, Isabel learns what is happening to the Jews in Europe, that Helga was saved by the Kindertransport, and tries to learn the terrible secret Helga is keeping. The story integrates factual material about World War II, the status of refugees, attitudes of Americans towards the German refugees and some of the experiences of the Kindertransport children. (Fiction, Honor Book for Teen Readers)

Zail, Suzy. *Playing for the Commandant*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014. ISBN 9780763664039 In Auschwitz, young pianist Hanna must perform for the Nazis to keep her mother and sister alive. She falls in love with the commandant’s son, Karl, whose kindness in the face of horror helps sustain her. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teens)


Leyson, Leon with Marilyn J. Harran and Elisabeth B. Leyson. *The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler’s List*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2013. ISBN: 9781442497818 The late Leon Leyson has created an inspiring memoir about his experiences during the Holocaust. He was one of the youngest children on Oskar Schindler’s list. (Nonfiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Matas, Carol. *Dear Canada: Pieces of the Past: The Holocaust Diary of Rose Rabinowitz, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1948*. Scholastic Canada, 2013. ISBN: 9781443113076 Rose’s fictional diary depicts her struggle to adjust to a new life as an orphan in Canada after WWII and shares her horrific experiences during the war. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Sax, Aline. *The War Within These Walls*. Illustrated by Caryl Strzelecki. Translated by Laura Watkinson. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2013. ISBN: 9780802854285 The appalling conditions of the Warsaw Ghetto are shown in this unforgettable illustrated novel. A teenage Jewish boy narrates a story beginning with the invasion of Poland, and dramatically showing the role he plays in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. (Fiction, Honor Book for Teen Readers)


Weiss, Helga. *Helga’s Diary: A Young Girl’s Account of Life in a Concentration Camp*. Translated by Neil Bermel. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013. ISBN: 9780393077971 Cemented in a brick wall and miraculously retrieved after the war, Helga’s real-life diary depicts her experiences in Terezin. With updated with family photos, footnotes, recollections, Helga’s childhood drawings, seventeen journal entries, and diagrams, the bravery of a young girl during such a perilous time is illuminated. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)
Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

Lieberman, Leanne. Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust. Olympia, WA: Orca Book Publishers, 2013. ISBN: 9781459801097 Seventeen-year-old Lauren doesn't want to be Jewish anymore. She is tired of Holocaust memoirs and Jewish summer camps. She believes Judaism is all about sadness, persecution, and loss. But when her friends start playing Nazi War games, Lauren realizes that her heritage is more important than she realized. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

2013


Rappaport, Doreen. Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2012. ISBN: 9780763629762 The authors presents “a sampling of actions, efforts, and heroism with the hope that [she] can play a role in helping to correct the damaging and persistent belief that Jews ‘went like sheep to the slaughter.’” Five years of research results in an important informational book, with back matter that includes a pronunciation guide, chronology, source notes, detailed bibliography, and an index. (Nonfiction, Honor Book for Teen Readers)


2012


Robbins, Trina. Lily Renee, Escape Artist: from Holocaust Survivor to Comic Book Pioneer. Illustrations by Anne Timmons and Mo Oh. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., 2011. ISBN: 9780761381143 Not only did Lily Wilheim survive, she triumphed over circumstances that forced her from a loving home in pre-war Vienna, on a Kindertransport to England, to the United States and through a variety of jobs and situations to become a comic book illustrator. Timmons and Oh’s vibrant graphic format, and the back matter with photographs, a glossary and historical descriptions, make for an exciting and educational biography. (Nonfiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)


Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee


Janeczko, Paul B. *Requiem: Poems of the Terezin Ghetto*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011. ISBN: 9780763647378 "Solemn songs to the memory of the people who died within the walls of Theresienstadt" is how the author describes his works of sparse, yet powerful poetry. The book includes art created in the concentration camp, as well as historical notes and related resources. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

2011

Jablonski, Carla. *Resistance*. Illustrations by Leland Purvis. New York: First Second, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2010. ISBN: 9781596432918 Paul must help his family run their hotel while his father is being held by the Nazi authorities. But when his best friend Henri, who is Jewish, escapes a roundup and is left behind, Paul and his sister decide to hide him and help him escape with the French Resistance. A graphic novel that provides a cinematic story of prejudice, fear, courage, and bold ingenuity. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Meyer, Susan Lynn. *Black Radishes*. New York: Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2010. ISBN: 9780385738811 Shortly before France is invaded, Gustave and his parents flee Paris for the countryside. Lonely for the friends he left behind, Gustave also faces anti-Semitism at school and an uncertain future while the family waits for visas to immigrate to America. Action, tension, and well-developed characters coupled with compelling details and beautifully crafted prose create a detailed picture of life for Jewish families in France during World War II. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Gleitzman, Morris. *Once*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2010. ISBN: 9780805090260 The brutality and devastation of the Holocaust is shown through a Polish orphan named Felix and his experiences after he runs away from the orphanage where he lived for almost four years. Believing that his parents might still be alive, he tries to find them at their family-owned bookstore only to discover that his town no longer has any Jews still living in it and all the books in his family shop are gone. (Fiction, Honor Book for Teen Readers)

Chapman, Fern Schumer. *Is It Night or Day?* New York: Farrar Straus Giroux/Macmillan, 2010. ISBN: 9780374177447 Based on the author's mother's experiences, this is an honest and moving account of a twelve-year-old girl who leaves her parents behind to travel to American with the assistance of the One Thousand Children Project, a group whose goal was to rescue German children during the Holocaust. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL's Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

poesiealbums. Through real entries, drawings and personal messages, coupled with emotive verse, readers see the events of Hitler's reign and the impact it had on families and communities. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Dogar, Sharon. Annexed. New York: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010. ISBN: 9780547501956 While Anne Frank's story is well known, what about Peter Van Pels, the teenage boy who hid with her? This fictionalized account begins in the Mauthausen concentration camp as Peter reflects back on his life in the Annex and his romantic relationship with the iconic diarist. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Jacobson, Sid and Ernie Colon. Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography. New York: Hill and Wang, 2010. ISBN: 9780809026852 This graphic novel offers a new perspective on Anne Frank's life and legacy beginning with her parents' childhoods and marriage and concluding with the publication of her diary and the effects it has had on the world. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)


2010


Metselaar, Menno and Ruud van der Rol. Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures from the Archives of the Anne Frank House. Translated by Arnold J. Pomerans. New York: Roaring Brook Press/Flash Point/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2009. ISBN: 9781596435469 Archival photographs of Anne and her family, her actual writing and diary, and the annex are powerful and instrumental in bringing her life into context. The text details world events as well as Anne's life. (Nonfiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Thor, Annika. A Faraway Island. Translated by Linda Schenck. New York: Delacorte Books for Young Readers/Random House Children’s Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780385736176 Stephie and Ellie Steiner are sent from Vienna to Sweden to escape the Nazi threat, and must adjust to life on a small island off the mainland. Stephie comes of age as she meets the challenge of a new culture, a strict foster mother, and the worries about family in Austria. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)


2009

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *The Boy Who Dared: A Novel Based on the True Story of a Hitler Youth*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780439680134 A powerful work of historical fiction portraying key moments in the life of a real German teenager during World War II. As he waits in prison, Helmuth Hubener reflects on events that led to the day of his execution for the crimes of listening to foreign newscasts, creating and distributing pamphlets, and for his resistance to the Nazi Party. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Fitzgerald, Stephanie. *Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass: Igniting the Nazi War Against Jews*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780756534899 Created for school research, this well-designed book includes clear, accurate information, historic photographs with informative captions, a glossary, bibliography, source notes, and timeline. Personal reflections and memories by eyewitnesses add to the impact of the account, which directly confronts Nazi lies about the Jews. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Herman, Charlotte. *My Chocolate Year*. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Younger Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416933410 Fifth grader Dorrie Meyers embarks on an exciting school year with a favorite teacher and the Sweet Semester dessert and essay contest. World War II has just ended, and when her cousin Victor, the sole Holocaust survivor of the family come to live with her family, he shares a recipe from his family's bakery to help her with the contest. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Laskier, Rutka. *Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust*. New York: Time, Inc. Home Entertainment, 2008. ISBN: 9781603200196 A Jewish girl's diary, describing her life in the days before her family was sent to Auschwitz, was hidden under Polish floorboards in 1943, retrieved in 1945, and miraculously rediscovered in 2006, allowing Zahava Laskier Scherz to explore the brief life of the half-sister she never knew. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)
Fleischman, Sid. *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*. New York: HarperCollins Children’s Books, 2007. ISBN: 0061344451 When the spirit of a 12-year-old Jewish boy, murdered by the Nazis, possesses the body of an American GI traveling through Europe as a second-rate ventriloquist, the pair is able to unmask the Nazi responsible. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)


Pressler, Mirjam. *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie*. Translated by Erik J. Macki. Honesdale, PA: Front Street, 2007. ISBN: 1932425845 Seventeen-year-old Johanna Riemenschneider’s idyllic, privileged childhood comes to an abrupt end when she travels to Israel with her German classmates to meet Jewish alumni of their high school who fled the town during World War II. (Fiction, Honor Book for Teen Readers)


Matas, Carol. *Whirlwind*. Victoria, Canada: Orca Book Publishers, 2007. ISBN: 9781551437033 Fifteen-year-old Ben emigrates to Seattle in 1942 with his family. He quickly befriends John, a Japanese-American classmate, as both boys endure taunting from their peers because of their origins. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


2007


Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL's Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee


Friedman, D. Dina. *Escaping into the Night*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN: 1416902589 When her mother and others do not come back from work, Halina is forced to deal with her absence and escape from the ghetto to save her own life. She joins the partisans in the woods, and survives World War II by using her wits and inner strength. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Glatshteyn, Yankev. *Emil and Karl*. Translated by Jeffrey Shandler. Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2006. ISBN: 1696431199 This story of two boys left alone in Vienna after their parents have been arrested by the Nazis is particularly significant because it was the first book written for children about the Holocaust. It was published in the United States in Yiddish in 1940 before the full horrors of World War II had unfolded. Shandler's seamless translation now makes the story accessible to contemporary readers. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Kacer, Kathy. *Hiding Edith: A True Story*. (Holocaust Remembrance Series) Toronto: Second StoryPress, 2006. ISBN: 1897187068 Through the story of Edith Schwalb Gelbard, who survived the Holocaust by continually moving and hiding, the reader can relate to the situation in Europe before World War II, the plight of the Jews, the virtue of righteous gentiles who helped them, and the courage and strength it took to survive. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


2006


Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

during World War II. Well-captioned black and white photographs along with double-spread full-color composite paintings accompany the first-person narration. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Poole, Josephine. *Anne Frank*. Illustrated by Angela Barrett. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. ISBN: 0375832424 Depicts the life of Anne Frank as a young girl in Frankfurt, Germany and in Amsterdam, her experiences in school, her friends, and her life in hiding. The illustrations are beautiful and haunting—with intricate detail they show how Anne changes, grows and matures into a young woman. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


2004

Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half-Human*. Translated by Doris Orgel. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN: 0689857470 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. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)


Johnston, Tony. *The Harmonica*. Illustrated by Ron Mazellan. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2004. ISBN: 1570915474 A young boy survives in a concentration camp because he can play Shubert on his harmonica, which the commandant asks for every night. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL's Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

2003

Patz, Nancy. *Who Was The Woman Who Wore The Hat?* New York: Dutton, 2003. ISBN: 0525469990 Offers a reflection on a woman's hat that was on display in the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam that questions who the woman might have been, what her life may have been like, and how she may have ended up a Holocaust victim. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)


2002


Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee


Lee, Carol Ann. *Anne Frank's Story: Her Life Retold for Children*. Mahwah, NJ: Troll Communications, 2002. ISBN: 0816774277 The important events in Anne Frank's brief life and the essence of her personality are conveyed to readers of this accessible biography. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


2001

Attems, Martha. *Daughter of Light*. Custer, WA: Orca Book Publishers, 2001. ISBN: 1551431793 During the harsh winter of 1944, when food is scarce and electricity has been turned off, a nine-year-old Dutch girl whose mother is pregnant confronts the town's Nazi-collaborationist mayor to try to convince him to restore the electricity before the baby is born. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Kacer, Kathy. *Clara's War*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2001. ISBN: 1896764428 pbk Thirteen-year-old Clara and her family are deported from Prague to the concentration camp of Terezin. Through their experiences, the grimness and terror of the camp are shown in contrast to its rich cultural life. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Greenfield, Howard. *After the Holocaust*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2001. ISBN: 0688177552 Focusing on eight Holocaust survivors now living in the United States, this powerful book shows the hardships faced by young survivors, many of whom were without homes, families, identities or hope. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Schmidt, Gary. *Mara's Stories: Glimmers in the Dark*. New York: Henry Holt, 2001 ISBN: 0805067949 In the night and fog of a concentration camp, women and children gather at night to listen to stories told by a prisoner named Mara, the daughter of a rabbi. The stories are adapted from Jewish lore; the listening is an act of resistance. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

2000
Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

**Vos, Ida.** *The Key is Lost.* Translated from Dutch by Terese Edelstein. New York: Morrow/HarperCollins, 2000. ISBN: 0688162835 Based on a true story, this historical fiction tells of two young sisters who get separated from their parents and are forced to live hidden away in the attics of Holland in order to escape from being caught by the Nazis. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)

**Hest, Amy.** *Love You, Soldier.* Illustrated by Sonja Lamut. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2000. ISBN: 0763609439 Katie, a Jewish girl living in New York City during World War II, sees many dynamic changes in her world as she ages from seven to ten waiting for her father to return from the war. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)


**Deedy, Carmen Agra.** *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark.* Illustrated by Henry Sorensen. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2000. ISBN: 1561452084 A beautifully illustrated tribute to the tolerance of the Danish People and their king, who took many risks on behalf of the Jewish population during the German occupation of World War II. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

**Isaacs, Ann.** *Torn Thread.* New York: Scholastic Press, 2000. ISBN: 0590603639 Based on the experiences of a Holocaust survivor, this is the story of two teenaged sisters who survive a Nazi slave labor camp where they were imprisoned for several years. Through a large cast of characters, the author touches on some central Holocaust issues. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


**Polacco, Patricia.** *The Butterfly.* New York: Philomel Books, 2000. ISBN: 0399231706 During the Nazi occupation of France, a child discovers that her mother is hiding Jews. The "little ghost" who appears in her bedroom at night is one of them. Monique and Sevrine become friends, sharing hope for a brighter future symbolized by the butterfly. A poignant story whose illustrations (by the author) express its mood. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


**Taylor, Marilyn.** *Faraway Home.* Dublin, Ireland: O’Brien Press, 1999. ISBN: 0531145247 An Austrian brother and sister are sent on the Kindertransport to Northern Ireland, where a farm for Jewish refugees from Hitler was established near Belfast. Actual events are integrated with sympathetic characters, believable relationships, well-paced action, and a portrayal of lives forever changed by war. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Holocaust Literature for Youth Recognized by AJL’s Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

Propp, Vera. *When the Soldiers Were Gone*. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1999. ISBN: 0698118812 pbk After the German occupation of the Netherlands, Benjamin leaves the Christian family with whom he had been living and is reunited with his real Jewish parents who returned from hiding and whom Benjamin doesn’t remember. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)


Maguire, Gregory. *The Good Liar*. New York: Clarion Books, 1999. ISBN: 0395906970 To the dismay of their devout and gentle mother, three French brothers delight in telling outrageous lies. When Jews are hidden in their village after the fall of Paris, lying is no longer a game. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


1998


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1997

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Stones in Water*. New York: Dutton Books, 1997. ISBN: 0141306009 pbk 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. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)


Nivola, Claire. *Elisabeth*. New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1997. ISBN: 0374320853 Years after fleeing from the Nazis, a young woman is reunited with the beloved doll she left behind in Germany. The writing style and illustrations are elegant, restrained, and moving. (Fiction, Notable Book for Younger Readers)


Gold, Alison Leslie. *Memories of Anne Frank: Reflections of a Childhood Friend*. New York: Scholastic Books, 1997. ISBN: 0590907220 The clipped style of this double Holocaust memoir, that of the famous Anne and her unknown friend, Hannah, will keep readers absorbed and eager to see what happens to Hannah as well as to learn more about Anne. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

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1996


1995

Andryszewski, Tricia. The Amazing Life of Moe Berg: Catcher, Scholar, Spy. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1996. ISBN: 1562946102 This well-paced biography presents a genuine eccentric, a famous Jew who was all the subtitle declares. The text, based on letters and clippings, contains, many quotes and delivers the brewing World War II as well as the man. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Grey, Vivian. Moe Berg: The Spy Behind Home Plate. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1996. ISBN: 0827605862 This is a very detailed biography of an observant Jew who becomes a professional athlete and atomic WWII spy. His wild character stands out despite a worshipful tone. His life will attract non-sports fans to the man and world politics. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Matas, Carol. After the War. New York: Simon & Schuster,1996. ISBN: 0689803508 This likeable historical novel covers the immediate post war period in short chapters at a fast pace. Fictional characters personalize the drama of Polish Holocaust survivors who escape to Palestine and succeed at illegal entry. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

Williams, Laura E. Behind the Bedroom Wall. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1996. ISBN: 157131606X A teenager converts from Bund Deutscher Madel to Jewish protector after stumbling onto her family's secret: Jews her parents hide behind her bedroom wall. The decision to report or support them propels a suspenseful plot from the righteous gentile's point of view. The fiction highlights the pivotal importance of parental attitude in creating tolerance. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)
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Adler, David. *One Yellow Daffodil*. Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 1995. ISBN: 0152005374 Two children help a survivor reconnect to his religious tradition when their family includes him in Hanukkah celebrations. He introduces the youngsters to the Holocaust. The art is dark; the text is polite and moving. (Fiction, Notable Book for Younger Readers)


Semel, Nava. *Flying Lessons*. Translated from Hebrew by Hillel Halkin. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995. ISBN: 0689801610 A bittersweet story romanticizes the time when Israel was a new state through a humorous teen narrator stuck in a provincial town. A sensitive shoemaker teaches her to balance dreams and reality through his Holocaust experience which is portrayed in original symbols. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Stewart, Gail B. *Life in the Warsaw Ghetto*. San Diego: Lucent Books, 1995. ISBN: 1560060751 All the ugly details of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Jews who suffered there are documented in this emotionally tough book. The photographs are incredible. The lesson is clear: it never should have happened. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Younger Readers)


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Morin, Isobel V. *Days of Judgment: The World War II War Crimes Trials*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook, 1995. ISBN: 1562944428 This is a clear, concise evaluation of the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials. Photographs and no-frills vocabulary combine to weigh facts, sift results, recall prevailing passions and establish contemporary relevance. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

1994


Lakin, Patricia. *Don’t Forget*. Illustrated by Ted Rand. New York: Tambourine Books, 1994. ISBN: 0688120768 Little Sarah, wanting to bake a surprise birthday cake for her mother, learns that one must remember “bad things” so they won't happen again. The book can be shared with a child who may be too young to ask about the Holocaust. (Fiction, Notable Book for Younger Readers)

Ackerman, Karen. *The Night Crossing*. Illustrated by Elizabeth Sayles. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. ISBN: 067983169X Mama’s Sabbath candlesticks become the focal point of the suspenseful 1938 escape from Austria. Written for second and third graders, with large print and wonderful black and white pencil drawings, it is an excellent introduction to the events of the Holocaust. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


1993


Toll, Nelly S. *Behind the Secret Window*. New York: Dial Books, 1993. ISBN: 0803713622 A personal Holocaust account, told in breathless chronology from 1941 through 1944. The story is enriched by remarkable watercolor art work done behind the secret window. This is a fine companion piece to The Diary of Anne Frank. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Van der Rol, Rudd, and Verhoeven, Rian. *Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary*. Translated from Dutch by Tony Langham and Plym Peters. New York: Viking Children's Books, 1993. ISBN: 0670849324 This photo-biography presents Anne's life through the family's photo album, in addition to selections from the famous diary. This book can serve well as supplementary text for a beginning Holocaust study. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Vos, Ida. *Anna is Still Here*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993. ISBN: 0395653681 Set in northern Holland, this is a deeply disturbing account of a war-traumatized 13-year-old girl. The deep meaning of the Sabbath celebration and Anna's love of books offset the uncomfortable feelings young teens may experience when reading this compelling story. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

Zeinert, Karen. *The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1993. ISBN: 1562942824 This is an excellent basic text for the study of Jewish resistance during World War II. Written in simple language, it is so carefully researched that it is suitable for upper high school grades and college level. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

1992

Cormier, Robert. *Tunes for Bears to Dance To*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1992. ISBN: 0440219035 pbk Eleven-year-old Henry escapes his family's problems by watching the woodcarving of Mr. Levine, an elderly Holocaust survivor, but when Henry is manipulated into betraying his friend he comes to know true evil. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Dillon, Eilís. *Children of Bach*. New York: Macmillan, 1992. ISBN: 0684194406 This is a sensitively written book about the escape of one part of a Hungarian family from the onslaught of the Nazis toward the end of World War II. Cowardice, bravery and all the feelings in between surface as the group of six escapees live in very close quarters. Though this group never totally lost its human dignity, many situations occurred in which they were tested to the extreme. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


1991

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Marpugo, Michael. *Waiting for Anya*. New York, Viking, 1991. ISBN: 0670837350 This is a realistic World War II novel set in Vichy, France at the time of the German occupation. A teenaged boy, Jo, participates in a courageous plan to save Jewish children despite the obvious danger. The suspense and human drama—a father hopes to find his daughter in each new group of rescued children—provides exciting and interesting reading. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Vos, Ida. *Hide and Seek*. Translated by Terese Edelstein and Inez Smidt. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. ISBN: 0395564700 Based on the author's life as a child, this documentary fiction takes place during the German occupation of Holland during World War II. Through a child's eyes we experience the terror of the German invasion of the Netherlands, the sadness of relinquishing a favorite bicycle, and the constant fear of discovery while hiding in the home of Christian friends. The book is the author's tribute to those courageous friends who helped her and other survive. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)

1990

Laird, Christa. *Shadow of the Wall*. New York: Greenwillow, 1990. ISBN: 0688152910 pbk Living with his mother and two sisters in the Warsaw Ghetto, Misha is befriended by the director of the orphanage, Dr. Korczak, and finds a purpose to his life when he joins a resistance organization. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)

Hest, Amy. *The Ring and the Window Seat*. Illustrated by Deborah Haeffele. New York: Scholastic, 1990. ISBN: 0590413503 Although she has been saving for a ring, Stella gives her sock full of nickels to a Jewish carpenter who is trying to rescue his little girl from Nazi-controlled Europe. (Fiction, Notable Book for Younger Readers)

Matas, Carol. *Code Name Kris*. New York: Scribner's, 1990. ISBN: 068419208X After the Nazi occupation of Denmark forces his Jewish friends to flee the country, 17-year-old Jesper continues his work with the underground resistance movement; sequel to *Lisa's War*. (Fiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


1989

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989. ISBN: 0440227534 reissue pbk 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. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)

Levitin, Sonia. *Silver Days*. New York: Atheneum, 1989. ISBN: 0689715706 pbk In this sequel to *Journey to America*, the reunited Platt family works hard at settling in to America, but the spectre of the war in Europe continues to affect their lives. (Fiction, Honor Book for Older Readers)
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Adler, David A. We Remember the Holocaust. New York: Henry Holt, 1989. ISBN: 0805004343 First hand interviews with Holocaust survivors and numerous photographs help history come alive in this powerful account of Hitler's campaign against the Jews. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


Sevela, Efraim. We Were Not Like Other People. New York: Harper & Row, 1989. ISBN: 0060255072 Spanning six years and Russian terrain from Siberia to Germany, this is the story of a 12-year-old Jewish boy, separated from his Red Army parents by World War II, and his survival against all odds. (Fiction, Notable Book for Teen Readers)

1988

Yolen, Jane. The Devil’s Arithmetic. New York: Viking-Kestrel, 1988. ISBN: 0142401099 reissue pbk 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. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)


1987
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Adler, David. *The Number on My Grandfather’s Arm*. Photographs by Rose Eichenbaum. New York: UAHC (now URJ Press), 1987. ISBN: 0807403288 A little girl questions a number printed on her grandfather’s arm and he explains how he received it in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. (Nonfiction, Award Winner for Younger Readers)

1986


1985

Finkelstein, Norman. *Remember Not to Forget*. Illustrated by Lois and Lars Hokanson. London: Franklin Watts, 1985. ISBN: 0531048926 The book presents the origins and history of anti-Semitism, beginning with the year 70 A.D., when the Jews were forced out of Jerusalem, to the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. Finkelstein uses specific incidents from history to illustrate how anti-Semitism stripped Jews of their rights and dignity. Dramatic woodcuts accompany Finkelstein’s text. (Nonfiction, Notable Book for Older Readers)


1984

Orlev, Uri. *The Island on Bird Street*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984. ISBN: 0395616239 reissue pbk During World War II a Jewish boy is left on his own for months in a ruined house in the Warsaw Ghetto, where he must learn all the tricks of survival under constantly life-threatening conditions. (Fiction, Award Winner for Olders)

1983

Zar, Rose. *In the Mouth of the Wolf*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1983. ISBN: 0827603827 pbk The author describes her experiences in wartime Poland and how she survived the Holocaust by passing herself off as an Aryan. (Nonfiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)
1978

Orgel, Doris. *The Devil in Vienna*. New York: Penguin USA, 1978. ISBN: 014032500X reissue pbk A Jewish girl and the daughter of a Nazi have been best friends since they started school, but in 1938 the thirteen-year-olds find their close relationship difficult to maintain. (Fiction, Award Winner for Older Readers)

1976


1973


1968