

Non-Fiction Books

All But My Life

By Gerda Weissman Klein

When Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 Klein and her family were separated and sent to concentration camps. The next 6 years of Klein's life was a systematic stripping away of all that was dear to her. Despite the horrifying experiences they faced Klein and her friends managed to find strength and friendship in their community of prisoners.

In the Camps: Teens Who Survived the Nazi Concentration Camps

By Toby Axelrod

True stories of teens that faced the horrors of Nazi concentration camps and came out alive.

Rescuers Defying the Nazi's: Non-Jewish Teens Who Rescued Jews

By Toby Axelrod

True stories of the brave non-Jewish teens that were willing to risk everything to save the lives of their Jewish countrymen.

Night

By Elie Wiesel

Night is the autobiographical account of Elie Wiesel's experience, as a teenager, in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. After losing his entire family in the concentration camps Wiesel must cope with the guilt of having survived.

The Diary of a Young Girl

By Anne Frank

During the Nazi occupation Anne Frank spent two years hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse with her family and four others before they were betrayed to the Nazis. This diary chronicles the daily life of a teenage Jewish girl struggling with the confusion of adolescence while coping with the weight of the world around her.

Winter in the Morning: A Young Girl's Life in the Warsaw Ghetto and Beyond, 1939-1945

By Janina Bauman

Bauman tells her own harrowing story of life as an affluent, unreligious Jewish teenager living in Poland during the Nazi occupation. The story based on her wartime diaries tells of her life in the Warsaw Ghetto, and her escape from the ghetto to life in hiding.

The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story

By Diane Ackerman

Through personal diaries and other research, Ackerman tells the story of Jan Zabinski, the director of the Warsaw Zoo, and his wife, Antonina. The Zabinski's bravely smuggled 300 Jews out of the Warsaw Ghetto and hid them in their villa and in the zoo's empty cages.

Fiction Books

The Fighter

By Jean-Jaques Greif

Moshe Wisniak, a polish born Jew, uses his training as a boxer to withstand the cruelty, starvation, and torture of Auschwitz. To entertain the officers Wisniak is set up to fight a dying prisoner, but when it comes time for the fight to end Wisniak refuses to deliver the killing blow.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

By John Boyne

Nine year old Bruno's family moves from their home in Berlin to a place called "Out-With." From his bedroom window Bruno can see thousands of sad looking people walking around in striped pajamas living behind a tall wire fence. One day Bruno meets a young boy named Shmuel, who lives on the other side of the fence. Bruno and Shmuel become fast friends, but soon Bruno begins to understand what is really happening on the other side of the fence and his father's role in it all.

Escaping into the Night (middle school)

By D. Dina Friedman

After her mother is killed in a Jewish round-up in the Norwogrodek ghetto in Poland, Halina escapes the ghetto through an underground tunnel to the forest. She finds refuge with a group of Jews living in an underground bunker. Halina has hidden from the Nazis but now she must fight her fellow refugees to survive in hiding.

Milkweed (Middle School)

By Jerry Spinelli

In 1939 Warsaw, Misha is a young orphan who does not know anything about his background; he doesn't even know his real name. He befriends a young Jewish girl, whose family takes him in just before they are sent to a ghetto, and Misha happily accompanies them. Despite the grave situation around him, Misha is able to look at the world with the wonder and delight of a young child.

Malka

By Mirjam Pressler

Based on one Jewish family's real escape story, Dr. Hannah Mai tries to escape Nazi-occupied Poland to Hungry with her daughters. When her youngest daughter, Malka, falls seriously ill, Mai must make the heartbreaking decision to leave her daughter behind. In Hungary, wracked with guilt, the mother decides to make the dangerous trip back to Poland to find her daughter.

Daniel Half Human: And the Good Nazi

By David Chotjewitz

Daniel, the 13 year old son of a prominent lawyer, is excited about the changes taking place in pre-WWII Germany and is eager to join Hitler youth. When he finds out that his mother is Jewish, Daniel feels betrayed by his family. He is soon kicked out of his school, and his best friend Armin tries to keep his distance. As the situation in Hamburg intensifies, Armin is torn between his loyalties to his best friend and the Nazi party.