



Bibliography and Videography

Applicable for Secondary Education

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

WILLIAM LEVINE FAMILY INSTITUTE
FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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With all the books, films, and website content about the Holocaust, choosing the right resource for classroom use can be difficult. This bibliography provides examples for the secondary school level, although it is not intended to be comprehensive. Suggested grade levels are provided, and Lexile Scores are noted when available.

This [rubric](#) guides educators in selecting age-appropriate and historically accurate books. Educators are encouraged to evaluate the options in the bibliography with the rubric to assess how the source fits their classroom needs.

DIARIES

Frank, Anne, and Otto Frank. *The Diary of a Young Girl*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

Anne Frank documents her experience in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. The diary details her family's daily life, the years they spent in hiding, and her own personal experiences.

(Lexile 1020—Grades 6–12)

Lipszyc, Rywka, and Anita Friedman. *Rywka's Diary: The Writings of a Jewish Girl from the Lodz Ghetto, Found at Auschwitz in 1945 and Published Seventy Years Later*. New York: HarperCollins, 2015.

Fourteen-year-old Rywka details her experiences in the Lodz ghetto from October 1943 until April 1944. A Soviet doctor eventually discovered the diary at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Includes additional background information on the city and ghetto of Lodz, a description of the diary's journey to the United States, and photos. (Grades 7–12)

Spiegel, Renia, Elizabeth Bellak, Sarah Durand, Deborah E. Lipstadt, Anna Blasiak, and Marta Dziurosz. *Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journal*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2019.

Stored in a bank vault for decades, Renia's diary documents her experiences in Przemyśl, Poland, from January 1939 until July 1942 under both Nazi and Soviet occupation. She writes about her fears, hopes, and the ongoing war. Renia also writes about her romantic interest in Zygmunt Schwarzer, a key individual in the survival of the diary. (Grades 7–12)

Zapruder, Alexandra. *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004.

A collection of diaries written by young people ages 12 to 22. The diaries cover a range of experiences and geographic locations. Each diary includes a detailed introduction providing background and context to the diary. The ebook edition includes maps and video clips with surviving diarists. (Grades 8-12)

MEMOIRS

Auerbacher, Inge. *I Am a Star: Child of the Holocaust*. New York: Puffin Books, 1993.

Inge Auerbacher's childhood is as happy and peaceful as that of any other German child—until 1942. By then, the Nazis are in power. Because Inge's family is Jewish, she and her parents are sent to a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. The Auerbachers defy death for three years and are finally freed in 1945. (Grades 6-12)

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997.

The author describes her experiences when, at age 13, she is arrested with her family and sent to the Nagymagyar ghetto. From there she is sent to Auschwitz and other camps before being liberated. (Lexile 720—Grades 8–12)

Bretholz, Leo and Michael Olesker. *Leap into Darkness: Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe*. New York: Anchor, 1999.

Young Leo Bretholz survives the Holocaust by escaping from the Nazis not once, but seven times during his almost seven-year ordeal crisscrossing war-torn Europe. He leaps from trains, outruns police, and hides in attics, cellars, and anywhere that offers a few more seconds of safety.

Buergenthal, Thomas. *A Lucky Child*. Boston: Little, Brown Spark, 2009.

Thomas Buergenthal, who later became a judge in the International Court of Justice in The Hague, tells his astonishing experiences as a young boy. He arrived at Auschwitz at age 10 after surviving two ghettos and a labor camp. (Lexile 1150)

Chiger, Krystyna, and Daniel Paisner. *The Girl in the Green Sweater: A Life in Holocaust's*

Shadow. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008.

Arrested and sent to the Lwow ghetto, Krystyna Chiger and her family are forced to hide in the sewer to avoid being deported and killed. They are aided by Leopold Socha, a Polish Catholic, who provides food and supplies. (Lexile 1010—Grades 7–12)

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning: Young Reader's Edition*. Boston: Beacon Press Books, 2017.

Frankl documents his experiences in Auschwitz and how he survived by finding a meaning for his life. This historical account has been newly adapted for younger readers to provide an accessible overview of Frankl's writing on psychology. Includes a glossary and a timeline of the Holocaust and Frankl's life. (Grades 7–12)

Klein, Gerda Weissmann. *All but My Life*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2001.

Gerda Weissmann Klein's detailed account describes her experiences during the Holocaust, from her life in Bielsko, Poland, through ghettos, camps, and a death march to her eventual liberation by Kurt Klein, who would later become her husband. (Lexile 780—Grades 8–12)

Kuper, Jack. *Child of the Holocaust: A Jewish Child in Christian Disguise*. New York: Berkley, 1992.

Jankele Kuperblum is just nine years old when he returns home and finds his family gone. The night before, Germans had come to his town in rural Poland and taken away all the Jews. Jack wanders through Nazi-occupied Poland for four years, with no place to hide and no one to trust. (Grades 7-12)

Levi, Primo. *Survival at Auschwitz; The Nazi Assault on Humanity*. New York: Touchstone

Books, 1996.

Primo Levi, an Italian Jew, describes his time in Auschwitz-Monowitz (Buna). Levi documents his daily horrific experiences, including the physical and psychological torment he endures. (Grades 9–12)

Leyson, Leon. *The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...On Schindler's List*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Leon Leyson documents his experience as one of the youngest people rescued by Oskar Schindler. Following the invasion of Poland, Leon and his family are sent to the Krakow ghetto. Leon describes their daily lives, working for Schindler, and his survival. (Lexile 1000—Grades 6–9)

Opdyke, Irene Gut, and Jennifer Armstrong. *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*. Toronto, ON: Ember, 2016. Reprint Edition.

When the war began, Irene Gut was 17 years old. She was a student nurse, a Polish patriot, and a good Catholic girl. Forced to work in a German officers' dining hall, she learns how to fight back. She was named by the Israeli Holocaust Commission as one of the Righteous Among the Nations. (Lexile 890L—Grades 6–12)

Rajchman, Chil. *Last Jew of Treblinka*. New York: Pegasus Books, 2012.

Chil Rajchman provides the only survivor's record of Treblinka. Originally written in Yiddish in 1945, without hope or agenda other than to bear witness, Rajchman's tale shows that sometimes the bravest and most painful act of all is to remember. (Grades 7-12)

Rucickova, Zuzana and Wendy Holden. *100 Miracles*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019.

Zuzana Ruzicková is growing up in 1930s Czechoslovakia dreaming of two things: Johann Sebastian Bach and the piano. Uprooted from her home, she is transported from Auschwitz to Hamburg to Bergen-Belsen. Bereaved, starved, and afflicted with crippling injuries to her musician's hands, the teenage Zuzana faces a series of devastating losses. (Grades 9-12)

Sender, Ruth Minsky. *The Cage*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2016.

After Riva's mother is taken away by the Nazis, Riva and her younger brothers struggle to endure life in the Lodz ghetto. Then the family is rounded up and deported to Auschwitz, where they are separated. (Lexile 500—Grades 5-9)

Wiesel, Elie, and Marion Wiesel. *Night*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2006.

In his autobiography, Elie Wiesel recounts his experiences as a young man in Sighet. Deported to Auschwitz with his family, he is separated from his sister and mother upon arrival. Elie stays with his father through Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buna, and then Buchenwald, where his father dies. Eventually, the US Army liberates Wiesel. (Lexile 590—Grades 9–12)

SECONDARY SOURCES

Arato, Rona. *The Last Train: A Holocaust Story*. Toronto: OwlKids, 2020.

This harrowing true story relates what happened to young brothers Paul and Oscar Arato and their mother, Lenke, after the Nazis occupied their home country, Hungary. The final years of World War II force the family into situations of growing panic and fear. (Lexile 580)

Maraniss, Andrew. *Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany*. New York: Philomel Books, 2019.

Maraniss tells the story of basketball, from its invention by James Naismith in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891, to the sport's Olympic debut in Berlin and the eclectic mix of people, events, and propaganda on both sides of the Atlantic that made it all possible. Includes photos, Who's Who of the 1936 Olympics, bibliography, and index. (Grades 7–10)

Rappaport, Doreen. *Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2012.

Rappaport details 20 stories of Jewish individuals who committed acts of resistance during the Holocaust. The author includes stories of armed resistance as well as of those individuals who resisted through other means. Includes photographs, maps, pronunciation guide, bibliography, source notes, and index. (Lexile 1030—Grades 6–12)

Thomson, Ruth. *Terezín: Voices from the Holocaust*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011.

This book provides a brief overview of the Terezin (Theresienstadt) ghetto and camp in Czechoslovakia. Using quotes from memoirs, diaries, and artwork, the author recounts

what individuals experienced living in Terezin. Includes photographs, timeline, glossary, list of source materials, and index. (Lexile 980—Grades 5–9)

LITERATURE

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *The Boy Who Dared*. New York: Scholastic, 2009.

A fictionalized account of the story of Helmuth Hübener, the youngest person sentenced to death by the Nazi government, according to Bartoletti's research. First a supporter of the Nazi party, Helmuth begins listening to banned radio broadcasts and eventually prints pamphlets critical of the government. Eventually, he is arrested and tried for his actions.

(Lexile 760—Grades 6–12)

Binet, Laurent and Sam Taylor. *HHhH*. London: Picador, 2013.

HHhH: "Himmlers Hirn heisst Heydrich" or "Himmler's brain is called Heydrich." The most lethal man in Hitler's cabinet, Reinhard Heydrich seems indestructible—until two exiled operatives, a Slovak and a Czech, kill him and change the course of history. In Laurent Binet's writing, we follow Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš from their dramatic escape from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia to their fatal attack on Heydrich and their own brutal deaths in the basement of a Prague church. (Grades 7-12)

Gaddy, K.R. *Flowers in the Gutter*. New York: Dutton Books, 2007.

Fritz, Gertrud, and Jean are classic outsiders: their clothes are different, their music is rebellious, and they aren't afraid to fight. But they are also Germans living under Hitler, and any nonconformity could get them arrested or worse. Their actions are always dangerous, and the Gestapo pursues and arrests hundreds of Edelweiss Pirates, teenagers like them who resist the Nazis. (Grades 7-12)

Hesse, Monica. *Girl in the Blue Coat*. New York: Little, Brown, 2016.

Hanneke, a teenager in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, is a smuggler who seeks to save herself and her family. She finds and delivers items sought by her paying clients. When she is asked to find a missing Jewish girl, she becomes more aware of the Nazi horrors and is drawn further into the resistance. (Lexile 720—Grades 9–12)

Kerr, Judith. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. New York: Puffin Books, 2009.

Forced to leave Germany in 1933 after her father, a journalist, flees to avoid arrest, Anna, who is nine years old, deals with living as a Jewish refugee in Switzerland, France, and England. Based on the experience of the author. (Lexile 940—Grades 5–9)

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1989.

Annemarie Johansen is a 10-year-old in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Nazis have occupied Denmark, and now her best friend, Ellen Rosen, is in danger. Annemarie and her family assist Ellen by hiding her and pretending she is part of their family. As pressure mounts, the resistance stages a daring rescue. At night, hundreds of fishing boats transport thousands of Jews from Denmark to Sweden under the cover of darkness. (Lexile 670—Grades 5–9)

Meyer, Susan Lynn. *Black Radishes*. New York: Yearling, 2011.

Gustav, a young French Jew, is sent from Paris into the countryside to escape deportation. As he learns that his friends and family are in danger, he must decide whether to sneak into Nazi-occupied areas to work with the French Resistance to save them. (Lexile 790—Grades 3–7)

Orlev, Uri. *The Island on Bird Street*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1992.

Alex, an 11-year-old Jewish boy, is forced to hide in the Warsaw ghetto after the disappearance of his mother and the arrest of his father. He observes what goes on from his hiding place and awaits the return of his father. Based on the experiences of the author who is a Holocaust survivor. (Lexile 690—Grades 7–12)

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

Sylvia Perlmutter, who is four and a half years old, is forced with her family to live in the Lodz ghetto in Poland. Sylvia recounts her experiences growing up in the ghetto until she is liberated at age 10. The author based the novel on the experiences of her aunt Sylvia (formerly Syvia), one of the few children to survive the Lodz ghetto. Told in verse from the first person. (Lexile 740—Grades 5–9)

Sepety, Ruta. *Between Shades of Gray*. London: Penguin Books, 2012.

In 1941, 15-year-old Lina, her mother, and her brother are taken from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia. Lina's father has been sentenced to death in a prison camp. Forced to work in Siberia, Lina fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by documenting their story through her artwork. Based on the author's family experiences, the book includes a historical note. (Lexile 490—Grades 7-12)

Sepety, Ruta. *Salt to the Sea*. London: Penguin Books, 2016.

As World War II draws to a close, refugees from Lithuania, Poland, and East Prussia try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. (Lexile HL560—Grades 6–12)

Sharenow, Robert. *The Berlin Boxing Club*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2012.

Karl Stern is 14 years old, an aspiring cartoonist, and Jewish. Although he never identified as Jewish, with the rise of the Nazi party, he is targeted, bullied, and eventually expelled from school. In exchange for a portrait from Karl's father's gallery, Max Schmelling, a world heavyweight boxer, agrees to train Karl as a boxer. As the Nazis gain more power, Karl flees to America. (Lexile 880—Grades 9–12)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Frank, Anne, Ari Folman, and David Polonsky. *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*. New York: Pantheon, 2018.

This graphic novel version of *The Diary of Anne Frank* pairs text adapted from excerpts in Anne Frank's diary with compelling illustrations to provide a concise, contextualized, and highly accessible rendering of the story of Anne Frank and the inhabitants of the Secret Annex. The graphic adaptation also includes extensive quotations directly from the definitive edition. It was authorized by the Anne Frank Foundation and remains faithful to the original. (Lexile 800—Grades 6–12) (Note: contains segments in which Anne explores her changing body and her sexuality.)

Heuvel, Eric. *A Family Secret*, translated by Lorraine T. Miller New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2009.

While going through his grandmother's attic, Jeroen finds an old photo album. His grandmother, Helena, recounts her experiences in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation and the loss of her best friend, Esther. Helena believes her father may have been responsible for Esther's arrest and disappearance, but Jeroen makes a profound discovery in the end. (Lexile 400—Grades 5–8)

Jacobson, Sid and Ernie Colón. *Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2011.

This graphic novel covers the lives of Anne's parents, Edith and Otto; Anne's first years in Frankfurt; the rise of Nazism; the Franks' immigration to Amsterdam; war and occupation; Anne's years in the Secret Annex; betrayal and arrest; her deportation and

tragic death in Bergen-Belsen; the survival of Anne's father; and his recovery and publication of her diary. (grades 6-12)

Spiegelman, Art. *The Complete Maus*. New York: Pantheon, 1996.

Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel uses animals to represent people (Jews as mice, Germans as cats, and Poles as pigs). He recounts his parents' experience in Auschwitz during the Holocaust; his troubled relationship with his father, Vladek; and his mother's suicide. Two volumes. (Grades 8–12)

FILM

Anne Frank Remembered. Culver City, CA: Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment, 2004.

This Academy Award-winning documentary about the life of Anne Frank uses historical interview footage of her father, Otto Frank. Also features interviews with surviving family members, friends, and Miep Gies, the woman who aided in hiding Anne and her family. (Grades 8–12)

Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State. London: BBC Home Entertainment, 2006.

This six-part series tells the history of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where 1.1 million people, most of whom were Jews, were killed during the Holocaust. Writer Laurence Rees and his team interviewed over 100 eyewitnesses, including former Nazi perpetrators who speak on the record for the first time. Their story is brought to life through the innovative use of archival footage, dramatic recreations of key moments, computer reconstructions of the camp, and first-person testimony. (Grades 7-12)

Avnet, Jon. *Uprising*. Burbank, CA: Warner Brothers, 2005.

Directed in brisk, semi-documentary style, this film explores the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the largest campaign of armed Jewish resistance to Nazi tyranny during World War II. (Grades 7-12)

Avrich, Barry. *Prosecuting Evil*. Melbar Entertainment Group, 2019.

This film tells the fascinating story of Ben Ferencz, who is the last surviving Nuremberg trial prosecutor. His experiences inspired his lifelong fight for law not war. (Grades 7-12)

Belzberg, Edet. *Watchers of the Sky*. Chicago: Music Box Films, 2015.

An extraordinary testament to one man’s perseverance, this Sundance award-winning film examines the life and legacy of the Polish-Jewish lawyer and linguist who coined the term genocide. (Grades 6-12)

Grossman, Roberta. *Who Will Write Our History*. Berkeley, CA: Abramorama, Katahdin Productions, and Match&Spark, 2019.

This documentary uses primary source documentation and reenactment to follow the resistance efforts of the Oneg Shabbat, which was a group of journalists, scholars, and others who banded together to document daily life in the Warsaw ghetto. The materials they collected provide a historical record of the suffering and humanity of the victims. (Grades 8–12)

Grunwald, Frank. *Miša's Fugue*. Fleetwood, PA: Butter Productions LLC, 2012.

This film details the life of Frank “Misa” Grunwald and his experiences in Terezin, Auschwitz, Mauthausen, Melk, and Gunskirchen. This is Frank’s story of the loss of his mother and brother and his separation from his father. Eventually, he is liberated and manages to find his father. (Grades 8–12)

Harris, Mark Jonathan. *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*. Burbank, CA: Warner Brothers, 2000.

This Oscar-winning feature-length documentary includes archival footage and eyewitness testimony to tell the story of the British operation that rescued 10,000 Jewish children from the German Reich during the pivotal years of 1938–1940. (Grades 9-12)

Jackson, Mark. *Denial*. New York: Bleeker Street/Studiocanal, 2016.

Based on the book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* by Deborah Lipstadt, this film dramatizes the court case in which Lipstadt, a Holocaust scholar, is sued for libel by David Irving, a Holocaust denier. (Grades 9–12).

Klein, Gerda Weissmann. *One Survivor Remembers*. New York: HBO, 2005.

This Oscar-winning documentary details the horrors experienced by Gerda Weissmann during the Holocaust. Through interviews and historical footage, she narrates the loss of her parents, her experiences in the labor camps and on a death march, and her liberation by her future husband, Kurt Klein. (Grades 8–12)

Moll, James. *The Last Days*. Los Angeles, CA: Shoah Foundation, 1999.

Using archival footage and eyewitness testimony from the vast collection of the USC Shoah Visual History Foundation, this Oscar-winning documentary presents the history of the Holocaust through the perspectives of five Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors. (Grades 8-12)

No Asylum: The Untold Chapter of Anne Frank's Story. Las Vegas, NV: Paradise Filmworks International, 2015.

This documentary film details the attempts Otto Frank made to find safe haven for his family before they went into hiding. Through interviews with surviving family members and historical images, the story unfolds about how the Frank family sought assistance through friends, refugee boards, and the US State Department. (Grades 8–12)

The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm. New York: HBO Home Entertainment, 2018.

<https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-number-on-great-grandpas-arm>

This 19-minute documentary describes Srulek “Jack” Feldman's life in Poland. In a very conversational manner, Jack tells his great-grandson, Eliot, about his family, his life before Nazi occupation, and his experiences in Auschwitz. Includes animated sequences and photographs. (Grades 6–12)

The Path to Nazi Genocide. Washington, DC: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2013.

<https://www.ushmm.org/learn/introduction-to-the-holocaust/path-to-nazi-genocide/the-path-to-nazi-genocide/full-film>

This concise documentary provides historical context and background information about the Holocaust. Using historical images and film clips, the film tells the story of the Nazi rise to power and the systematic destruction of the Jewish people and other groups.

(Grades 7–12)

Third Reich: The Rise. New York: New Animal Productions, 2010.

Rare and never-before-seen amateur films offer a unique perspective on the rise of Nazi Germany by those who experienced it. (Grades 7-12)

Polanski, Roman. *The Pianist*. Los Angeles, CA: Focus Features, 2002.

Based on the survivor memoir of the same name, *The Pianist* tells the story of Wlasyław Szpilman, a Polish-Jewish pianist and composer. Told through Szpilman’s eyes, the Oscar-winning film portrays life in the Warsaw ghetto, the Jewish uprising and destruction of the ghetto, and finally the Polish Warsaw revolt of 1944. (Grades 8-12)

Rothmund, Marc. *Sophie Scholl–The Final Days*. Berlin, Germany: Zeitgeist Films, 2005.

This German historical drama tells the story of the anti-Nazi nonviolent student resistance group, the White Rose, which was part of the German Resistance movement. It focuses on 21-year-old Sophie Scholl. She was found guilty of high treason by the National Socialist People's Court and executed on February 22, 1943. (Grades 8–12)

Spielberg, Steven. *Schindler's List*. Universal City, CA: Universal Pictures, 1993.

Based on the novel *Schindler's Ark*, by Thomas Keneally, this Oscar-winning feature film tells the story of the Sudeten German businessman, Oskar Schindler. An opportunist and member of the Nazi party, Schindler at first exploits Jewish forced labor in occupied Poland. He ultimately saves the lives of more than 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust. The film explores the complex relationship among Schindler; his Jewish accountant, Itzhak Stern; and the sadistic camp commandant, Amon Goeth. (Grades 8-12)

Zapruder, Alexandra. *I'm Still Here: Real Diaries of Young People Who Lived During the Holocaust*. Long Island City, NY: SISU Home Entertainment, 2008.

Based on the work *Salvaged Pages*, this documentary uses historical images, film footage, and text to tell the stories of young diarists during the Holocaust. (Grades 8–12)

Zwick, Edward. *Defiance*. Los Angeles, CA: Paramount Vantage, 2008.

This feature film is based on Nechama Tec's 1993 nonfiction book, *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans*. It tells the story of the Bielski partisans, a group led by Polish Jewish brothers who saved more than 1,000 Jews in the forests of German-occupied Belarus. (Grades 8-12)