



Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre



Recommended Books about the Holocaust for Young Readers



Suggestions for ages 8 to 16+



ABOUT THE LIST

With so many books published about the Holocaust, we are often asked which titles we recommend for young readers that are both age-appropriate and historically accurate. This list offers some suggestions, but it is not exhaustive.

In an age of disinformation and misinformation, books are not exempt from spreading inaccuracies about the Holocaust. Many popular titles are poorly researched or purely fictional yet sometimes marketed as “based on a true story,” or widely perceived as factual when they are not.

This list includes both fiction and nonfiction. We encourage teachers and parents to use these books as starting points for discussion. It is important to remember that all works of fiction – even when well researched – may contain inaccuracies, and that memoirs reflect personal experiences, which may not always align fully with the broader historical record.

All books are hyperlinked to a blurb



Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto by Susan Goldman Rubin



Fritz & Kurt by Jeremy Dronfield



The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey by Louise Borden



Janusz Korczak's Children by Gloria Spielman



Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine



The Promise by Eva Schloss



Yellow Star by Jennifer Roy



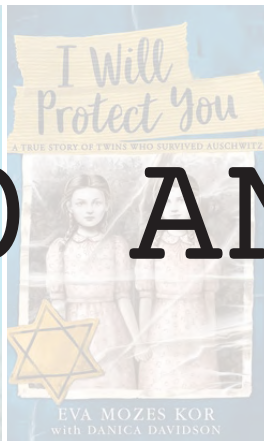
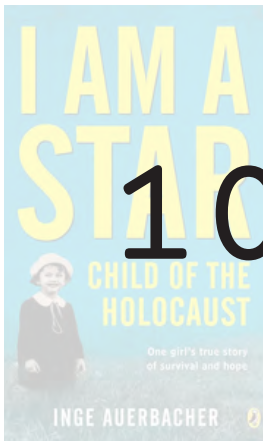
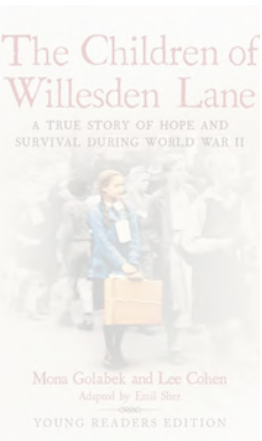
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr



Number the Stars by Lois Lowry



White Bird: A Wonder Story (A Graphic Novel) by R. J. Palacio



10 AND UP



The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List by Leon Leyson



I Am a Star: Child of the Holocaust By Inge Auerbacher



Signs of Survival: A Memoir of the Holocaust by Renee Hartman with Joshua M. Greene



I Will Protect You: A True Story of Twins Who Survived Auschwitz by Eva Mozes Kor & Danica Davidson



The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen



The Children of Willesden Lane: A True Story of Hope and Survival During World War II By Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen

12 AND UP



The Hidden Girl: A True Story of the Holocaust by Lola Rein Kaufman with Lois Metzger



Somewhere There is Still a Sun: A Memoir of the Holocaust by Michael Gruenbaum with Todd Hasak-Lowy



Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank



A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust by Albert Marrin



The Ballerina of Auschwitz: Young Adult Edition of The Choice by Edith Eger



The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti



MAUS I by Art Spiegelman



MAUS II by Art Spiegelman



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak



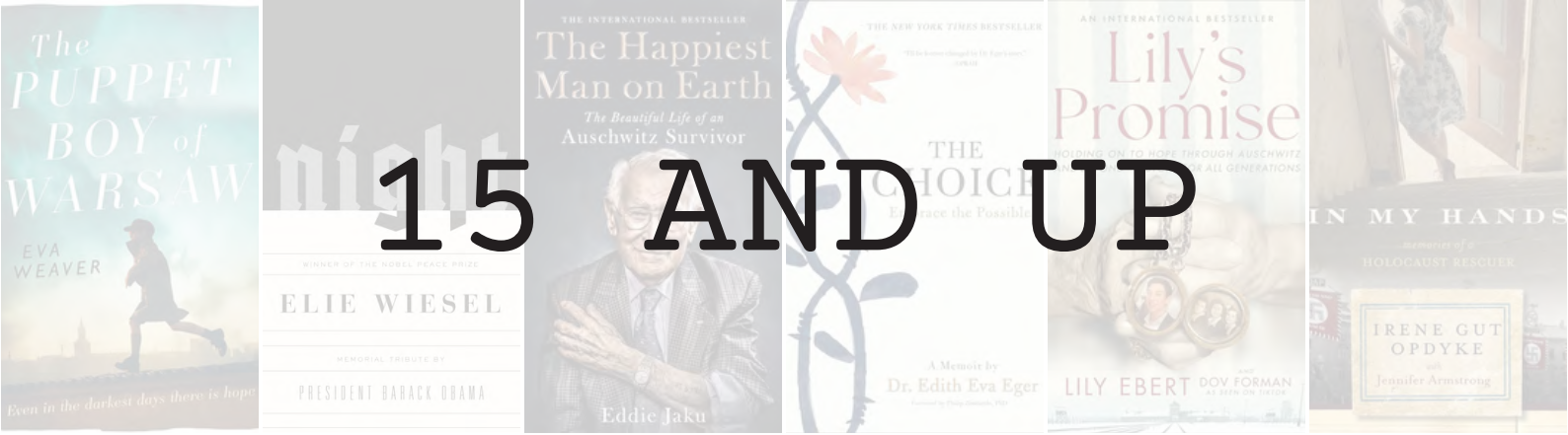
What Papa Told Me by Felice Cohen



Children in the Holocaust and World War II: Their Secret Diaries by Laurel Holliday



The Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse



Lily's Promise: How I Survived Auschwitz and Found the Strength to Live by Lily Ebert with Dov Forman



Night by Elie Wiesel



In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer by Irene Gut Opdyke



The Choice: Embrace the Possible by Edith Eger



The Happiest Man in the World: The Beautiful Life of an Auschwitz Survivor by Eddie Jaku



The Puppet Boy of Warsaw by Eva Weaver



Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl



If This is a Man by Primo Levi



I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing up in the Holocaust by Livia Bitton-Jackson



The Twins of Auschwitz: The inspiring true story of a young girl surviving Mengele's hell by Eva Mozes Kor & Lisa Rojany Buccieri



A Gypsy in Auschwitz: How I Survived the Horrors of the "Forgotten Holocaust" by Otto Rosenberg



We Share the Same Sky: A Memoir of Memory & Migration by Rachael Cerrotti
Also available as a podcast