

SUGGESTED STUDENT READING LISTS FOR GRADES 7-12

When teaching a sensitive topic such as the Holocaust, please remember to be aware of your students' level of maturity and remain cautious about resources that might be emotionally upsetting or challenging for your students.

Non-Fiction Grades 7-9

- a. **Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust**, Rappaport, Doreen, Candlewick, 2014
 - a. In a stirring chronicle, Doreen Rappaport brings to light the courage of countless Jews who organized to sabotage the Nazis and help other Jews during the Holocaust.
- a. **The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible. . .On Schindler's List**, Leyson, Leon, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015
 - i. Leyson's memoir details his life as one of the youngest people on Schindler's famous list.
- b. **The Boy Who Drew Auschwitz: A Powerful True Story of Hope and Survival**, Geve, Thomas, Harpercollins, 2021
 - i. An inspiring true story of hope and survival, this is the testimony of a boy who was imprisoned in Auschwitz, Gross-Rosen and Buchenwald and recorded his experiences through words and color drawings.
- c. **The Cage**, Minsky Sender, Ruth, Simon Pulse, 1997
 - i. Memoir of life in the ghetto and camps, from the viewpoint of the teenage author.
- d. **The Children of Willesden Lane: A True Story of Hope and Survival During World War II**, Golabek, Mona, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2017
 - i. One of 10,000 Jewish children sent to England by fearful parents at the dawn of WWII, aspiring pianist Lisa Jura was 14 when her family put her on a Kindertransport train in Vienna.
 - ii. Educational materials: <https://www.holdontoyourmusic.org/education.html>
- e. **Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and Rescue of the Jews**, Levine, Ellen, Scholastic Inc, 2000
 - i. The story of the Danish community and its resistance of Nazi rule over the Jews in their country.
- f. **The Diary of a Young Girl**, Frank, Anne, Bantam Publishers, 1997
 - i. Anne Frank's diary is a true Holocaust classic. The diary was found in an attic where the family had hidden and reveals the thoughts and feelings of a teenaged Anne, as her family lives in hiding.
- g. **Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow**, Campbell Bartoletti, Susan, Scholastic Publishing, 2019
 - i. An excellent history of the youth group that German children were required to join.
- h. **I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust**, Bitton-Jackson, Livia, Simon Pulse, 1999
 - i. Bitton-Jackson's memoir of being taken at the age of 13 from her home in Hungary and facing Nazi persecution, including her imprisonment at Auschwitz.

- i. **I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children’s Drawings and Paintings from the Terezin Concentration Camp, Volavkova, Hanna**, Schocken, 1942-1944
 - i. A collection of artwork and poems by children in the Terezin camp, most of whom did not survive.

Non-Fiction Continued
Grade 7-9

- j. **Parallel Journeys, Ayer, Eleanor**, Aladdin Publishers, 2000
 - i. The true story of a Hitler Youth member and a Jewish girl who grew up in Germany under very different circumstances, only to speak together of their experiences many years later.
- k. **Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust, Bachrach, Susan**, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 1994
 - i. An excellent overview of the Holocaust, using artifacts from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Grades 9-12

- l. **All But My Life, Weissman Klein, Gerda**, Hill and Wang Publishers, 1995
 - i. Klein’s memoir of her life in Poland during the war, including her time in labor camps, and her miraculous liberation.
- m. **The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love and Survival, Golabek, Mona**, Grand Central Publishing, 2007
 - i. Memoir of the author’s mother, a child saved by the Kindertransport, and her experiences in England.
 - ii. Educational materials: <https://www.holdontoyourmusic.org/education.html>
- n. **In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer, Gut Opdyke, Irene and Armstrong, Jennifer**, Ember Publishers. 2016
 - i. Memoir of a Catholic Polish woman who saves Jewish neighbors in surprising ways.
- o. **Irena’s Children: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Saved 2,500 Children from the Warsaw Ghetto, Mazzeo, Tilar**, Gallery Books, 2017
 - i. Sandler’s incredible story is told here, outlining the risks she was willing to take to smuggle children to safety.
- p. **Maus, Volumes I and II (graphic novels), Spiegelman, Art**, Pantheon, 1986 and 1992
 - i. Spiegelman's graphic novels outline both the stories of his parents, who grew up in Poland and were sent to Auschwitz, and his own life in the shadow of survivor parents.
- q. **Night, Wiesel, Elie**, Hill and Wang, 1955
 - i. Wiesel’s memoir of his experiences as a teenager torn from his hometown in Romania to the death camps.
- r. **On Both Sides of the Wall: Memoirs from the Warsaw Ghetto, Meed, Vladka**, Holocaust Library, 1993
 - i. Meed’s experiences escaping the Warsaw Ghetto and helping by smuggling food and weapons for the Uprising.
- s. **Salvaged Pages: Young Writers’ Diaries of the Holocaust, Zapruder, Alexandra**, Yale University Press, 2015

- i. A collection of 14 diaries by young people from a variety of countries and experiences.
- t. **The Shadow of Death: Holocaust in Lithuania, Gordon, Harry**, University Press of Kentucky, 2000
 - i. The Shadow of Death describes the invasion of Kovno by the Red Army and the impact of Soviet occupation from the perspective of the ghetto's weakest and poorest class. It also serves as a reminder that the Germans were not alone responsible for the persecution and extermination of Jews.
- u. **Survival in Auschwitz, Levi, Primo**, Simon and Schuster, 1995
 - i. Levi's memoir of his capture in Italy and life in Auschwitz, questioning his humanity along the way.

Fiction

Grades 7-9

- v. **Between Shades of Gray, Sepetys, Ruta**, Penguin Books, 2012
 - i. The story of a Lithuanian girl sent to a Siberian work camp, separated from her family.
- w. **The Book Thief, Zusak, Markus**, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2007
 - i. Liesel, the main character, steals books to share with her father and the Jewish man hiding in the basement in 1939 Nazi Germany.
- x. **The Diary of Anne Frank, Goodrich, Frances and Hackett, Albert**, Random House, 1956
 - i. A stage adaptation of the posthumously published 1947 book The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank.
- y. **White Bird: A Wonder Story (graphic novel), Palacio, R.J.**, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2019
 - i. Beautiful drawings and story of a girl discovering her grandmother's Holocaust stories.
- z. **Yellow Star, Roy, Jennifer**, Two Lions, 2014
 - i. Written in verse, the author tells the story of her aunt, one of the few children who survived the Lodz Ghetto.