Bibliography of Selected Holocaust Fictional Works for Young Adults

   In 1938, having begun to feel Nazi persecution in their Austrian city, Clara and her family flee over the mountains to Switzerland.

   During Hanukkah two children help a Holocaust survivor to once again embrace his religious traditions.

   Chronicles joys and troubles of a group of teens, mostly Holocaust survivors, living in an Israeli youth settlement in 1953.

   11 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.

   Hungarian family of talented musicians escapes Nazi persecution.

   In answer to his daughter's questions, a man recalls the terrifying years of his childhood when a brave Polish couple, Alex and Mela Roslan, hid him and other Jewish children. Based on a true story.

   As she tries to repair a torn feather pillow, Grandma tells of her Polish childhood, Nazi persecution during WW II, and the origin of the special pillow.

   Based on the real life experiences of Friedman, this novel tells the story of children living with a father who is a Holocaust survivor. Beautifully and compellingly written.

   Novel which describes author's own experiences growing up in Nazi Germany as daughter of anti-Nazi Luftwaffe officer. Unusual perspective.

   Short stories based on Gotfryd's personal experiences which include a variety of individuals, including a Nazi officer, a deaf-mute woman, shopkeepers, etc.

9 year-old Helen is confused by the disappearance of a Jewish friend during the German occupation of Paris.


Novel set in Warsaw ghetto in 1942 features a boy living with his two younger sisters in Janusz Korczak's orphanage. Much easier to read and shorter than Korczak's biography.


After Buchenwald release, 15-year-old Ruth risks her life to lead a group of children across Europe to Palestine.


Rachel, a young Jewish girl living in Nazi occupied Warsaw, struggles to survive with her family and maintains hope by painting colorful flowers on the dingy apartment walls.


Fictional composite of actual Dutch Jews, Rosemarie was deported with family to Westerbork transit camp and then Bergen-Belsen. Rosemarie and most of her family survived.


Based partly on author's own experiences, the story takes place in Vienna just prior to Nazi annexation of Austria in March 1938. Uses diary entries to show difficulties of 13 year-old Jewish girl maintaining friendship with daughter of Nazi.


In WW II, a Jewish boy is left on his own for months in a ruined house in the Warsaw ghetto where he must learn survival tricks under life-threatening conditions.


In 1947, 17 year-old Yulek, the only member of his immediate family to survive the German camps, joins a group of young Jews preparing to live on a kibbutz in Israel, unaware that his aunt in London is looking for him.


A semi-autobiographical novel of a young boy's journey from a suburb of Warsaw to the ghetto to Bergen-Belsen. Yurik and his kid brother Kazik transmute the life and death around them into children's games.


Living on the Warsaw Ghetto outskirts in WW II, 14 year-old Marek and his grandparents shelter a Jewish man in the days before the Jewish uprising.


Eight year-old Srulik escapes the Warsaw ghetto and spends the war on the run, surviving in Nazi-occupied Poland. The novel is based on the experiences of a fellow survivor and childhood friend of Orlev.
Written as novel, book is based on notes given to Ramati by Roman Mirga, a Polish Gypsy and the main character. Tells of Mirga's experiences from 1942-1945 as he escapes from Nazis in Poland, is caught in Hungary, and sent to Auschwitz.

Novel about a German boy and his friendship with a Jewish boy Friedrich during the Nazi years. Useful chronology adds to student's understanding.

Not a novel, but rather a first-person account by Richter of the Hitler Youth movement as he experienced it. Richter says, "I am reporting how I lived through that time and what I saw--no more. I was there. I believed--and I will never believe again."

An autobiographical novel set in Nazi occupied France. Renee, a young Jewish girl, and her family flee home in Alsace and live precariously in Paris until Renee and her sister escape to the shelter of a convent in Normandy. (U.S. Holocaust Museum lists book as "memoir.")

While spending a summer on his grandfather's farm in the French countryside, 11-year-old Etienne discovers a secret dating back to WW II and encounters ghosts of Jewish children who suffered under the Nazis.

Fictionalized memoir of the author's and family's heroic responses to the slow destruction of the Jewish community in Hitler-dominated Hungary.

An orphaned boy survives life in the Warsaw ghetto.

Brief story which chronicles Isaac and his family in Warsaw. Moves from a bar mitzvah to hunger to a train ride to Treblinka and shows how family's faith in God is sustained.

Novella about two schoolboys in Germany in the early 1930ís--one the son of a Jewish doctor, the other a German aristocrat.

Explores the relationship between two close friends--Henry and
Jonathon—and the changes the relationship undergoes when Jonathon's
cousin David, a Holocaust survivor, comes to live with Jonathon's
family.

13 year-old Anna, a hidden child in Nazi-occupied Holland, gradually
learns to deal with the realities of being a survivor.

Story based on autobiographical material about a Dutch girl's
experiences under Nazi occupation.

Fiction for Secondary Students and Adults

Novel about Gerda, a Hungarian Jew now living in Brooklyn, and her
upstairs neighbor Jack, a Viennese pastry chef. Their lives had
crossed in Budapest in 1945 under the nose of Eichmann.

Appelfeld, Aharon. The Age of Wonders. Boston: David R. Godine Publisher,
1981.
Novel which shows secure world of well-established and apparently
well-assimilated Jewish writer in Austrian town before WW II fall to
pieces under force of political and social realities of Austrian
anti-Semitism.

Dramatizes not just the summer of 1939, but the entire pre-WW II
experience of the Jews of Germany and Austria.

____________. "Badenheim 1939" in The Penguin Book of Jewish Short
143-170.
Short story version.

Chronicles a young Holocaust survivor's struggle to come to terms
with his experiences.

Story about assimilated Jews of central Europe on the brink of a
Holocaust they cannot believe will take place.

____________. To the Land of the Cattails. New York: Weidenfeld and
Nicolson, 1986.
Novel chronicling the journey of young man and his mother in 1938 as
they travel across heart of Europe to her distant childhood land.
Village Jews are being shipped off on mysterious train to unspecified
destination.

Novel which tells the story of a poor, stupid Jewish girl, left
behind as her family flees during WW II. Yet she unwittingly manages
to survive the Holocaust in the company of the local Polish peasants.
Reminiscent of a parable.
Seen by many as the best novel about the Holocaust written by a
German author, the book focuses on Jacob Heym's experiences in a
ghetto and the lies he tells because lies are the only thing people
will believe.
Borowski, Tadeusz. This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen. New York:
Short stories based on the author's experiences as a non-Jewish
communist in Auschwitz.
Epstein, Leslie. King of the Jews: A Novel of the Holocaust. New York:
Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc., 1979.
Controversial novel of a ghetto in Poland and the head of the
Judenrat. Loosely based on Lodz Ghetto and Chaim Rumkowski.
Fink, Ida. A Scrap of Time and Other Stories. New York: Pantheon Books,
1987.
Short stories based on authentic experiences about life in Poland
during the Holocaust. Some stories show how time was measured by
Holocaust victims and some describe people in variety of normal human
situations distorted by circumstances of the times.
Story in autumn 1942 as two young Jewish sisters dress as Polish
peasants and flee the ghetto, going into the heart of Germany to work
as hired labor in factories, farms, and villages.
Green, Gerald. Holocaust A Novel of Survival and Triumph. Williamsport,
Based on the long NBC-TV documentary, the book tells the saga of a
gentle and compassionate Jewish physician and his family from 1935 to
1945 under the brutalities of the Nazis.
Novel which focuses on the life of a German Zwerg or dwarf from
1915 through 1946 as she deals with her own physical size as well as
the Nazi regime; Trudi harbors Jews during the war.
Concerns the creation of the Warsaw Ghetto, the building of the wall
around it, and the uprising and destruction of the ghetto.
Based on many facts of Schindler's life, chronicles this Gentiles
associations with the Nazis and his efforts to save Jews for his
factories.
narrator of the novel who survives Auschwitz and Buchenwald,
concludes, "I have heard it said before, and now I can attest to its
truth: narrow prison walls cannot set limits to the flights of our
imagination." (page 188)
Novel focusing on a young boy abandoned by his parents in Eastern
Europe during WW II and mistakenly thought to be a Jew or a Gypsy. His adolescent innocence encounters terror and brutality. Use with discretion.

Lakin, Pat. Don't forget. New York: Tambourine Books, 1994. While bringing the ingredients for a first cake--a surprise for her mother's birthday--Sarah shares secrets with friendly neighborhood shopkeepers, especially the Singers, who have blue numbers on their arms.


Lustig, Arnold. Darkness Casts No Shadows. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1985. Two young boys escape a transport between concentration camp and unknown destination and also try to escape memories of past experiences and find home that no longer exists.


final stand.
A young Hungarian Jew escapes to the forest during the Nazi occupation, masquerades as a mute in another village and joins the Jewish partisans.
Uses the German story of Briar Rose--Sleeping Beauty--and sets story in forests patrolled by the German army during WW II. Weaves the fairy tale and Holocaust together.