

LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST: UNDENIABLE STORIES OF SURVIVAL

SELECTED RESOURCES ON THE HOLOCAUST AVAILABLE FROM THE AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library resources for teachers and students include materials on the shelves of ASCPL's 19 locations, and materials made available through the Library's participation in SearchOhio and OhioLink.

It is important to note here that images can be powerful (and disturbing); the impact of written testimony should also not be underestimated. **When reviewing books, films, and websites, please determine if their content is appropriate for the students you serve.**

The Holocaust: General Resources

Bartel, Judy. The Holocaust: A Primary Source History. Gareth Stevens. 2006.
Historical review interspersed with speech excerpts, government documents, telegram texts, letters, and more.

Berenbaum, Michael. The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. USHM. 2006.
An excellent and accessible resource from an important source.

Berenbaum, Michael. A Promise to Remember: The Holocaust in the Words and Voices of Its Survivors. Bulfinch. 2003.
Graphics, a CD of survivor testimony, and facsimiles of primary documents tell the story of the Holocaust in depth.

Gitlin, Marty. The Holocaust. ABDO. 2011.
Accessible and thorough review from the "prelude to horror" to modern-day Holocaust denial.

Herman, Gail. What Was the Holocaust? Penguin. 2018.
From the New York Times and WhoHQ, a history book for middle- and less-proficient high school readers. Illustrations and photos included.

Hill, Jeff. The Holocaust. Omnigraphics. 2006.
Primary sources explore the Holocaust from its roots in 16th century European anti-Semitism to an examination of the importance of bearing witness.

Rogasky, Barbara. Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust. Revised & Expanded Edition. Holiday House. 2002.

Rogasky revisits her chilling account of Hitler's rise to power, the extermination of millions of European Jews, and the efforts by some today to erase history.

Steele, Philip. The Holocaust: The Origins, Events, and Remarkable Tales of Survival. Scholastic. 2016.

An accessible review, from Jewish origins in Europe to Holocaust remembrance.

Tonge, Neil. The Holocaust. Rosen. 2009.

An accessible overview from the "Documenting World War II" series.

Wood, Angela. Holocaust: The Events and Their Impact on Real People. DK Publishing. 2007.

As is the DK tradition, photos and text work hand-in-hand to provide an excellent overview of events. Includes a DVD of survivor testimony.

Stories of Survival: Collected Lives

Broken Silence. Cinemax Reel Life. 2004. 285 min. (5 films)

Five documentaries, five directors, five countries. Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation presents this collection detailing survivors' experiences of rescue and betrayal.

DeCalzo, Nick. Triumphant Spirit: Portraits & Stories of Holocaust Survivors.

Triumphant Spirit Publishing. 1997.

One-page survivor accounts make accessible the unique and the shared in these experiences.

Kahn, Leora, and Hager, Rachel, eds. "When They Came to Take My Father": Voices of the Holocaust. Arcade. 2012.

Survivor narratives with compelling portraits.

Last Survivors. PBS. 2019. 60 min.

They were children during the Holocaust. Today they speak as the last generation of survivors. They share the stories of their survival, the impact of those experiences on their lives after the Holocaust, and their hopes for the future.

Lost Childhood : The Story of the Birkenau Boys. Clearvue & SVE. 2006. 48 min.

Now older adults, the "Birkenau Boys" return to the concentration camp where their lives converged. (For those interested in a complementary story: Waisman, Robert. The Boy from Buchenwald: The True Story of a Holocaust Survivor. Bloomsbury. 2021.

Rosenberg, Maxine B. Hiding to Survive: Stories of Jewish Children Rescued from the Holocaust. Clarion. 1994.

Personal narratives tell the story of hidden children, and of their lives after the war. (Accessible to middle school- and less-proficient high school readers.)

Shackleton, Kath. Survivors of the Holocaust: The Stories of Six Extraordinary Children. Sourcebooks Explore. 2019.

Each true story is a powerful testament to the survivors' individual experiences. (In more accessible graphic novel format.)

Smith, Lyn. Remembering: Voices of the Holocaust. Carrol & Graf. 2005.

A history of the Holocaust told through the words of its survivors.

Bab Bonde, Jessica. We'll Soon Be Home Again. Dark Horse. 2020.

Six stories of survival told in an accessible graphic novel-style format. (In that same format, see also: Tarshis, Lauren. I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944. Scholastic. 2021.)

Zullo, Allan, and Bovsun, Mara. Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust. Scholastic. 2004.

The retelling of nine stories of young Holocaust survivors. (Accessible to middle- and less-proficient high school readers.)

Stories of Survival: Individual Accounts

DeSaix, Deborah Durland, and Ruelle, Karen Gray. Peter's War. Holiday House. 2020.

The authors document the true story of 12-year-old Peter Feigel's journey of survival through a scrapbook-style format that is accessible to middle- and less-proficient high school readers.

Hidden Child. PBS. 2007. 60 min.

The story of Maud Dahme and her sister, and that of other children hidden during the war, and of those whose compassion made their survival possible.

Hollander-Lafon, Magda. Four Scraps of Bread. University of Notre Dame. 2016.

One- or two-page reflections on the author's experiences at Auschwitz and beyond.

Kraus, Michael. Drawing the Holocaust: A Teenager's Memory of Terezin, Birkenau, and Mauthausen. Hebrew Union. 2016.

After liberation, a survivor begins to heal by documenting his experiences. (See also: Geve, Thomas. The Boy Who Drew Auschwitz. Harper. 2021.)

Klein, Gerda Weissmann. All But My Life. New & Expanded Edition. Hill & Wang. 2019.

Klein shares her six-year ordeal under Nazi rule, from her comfortable pre-war home in Poland to liberation by American forces at war's end.

Nana. First Run Features. 2018. 100 min.

A grand-daughter's award-winning documentary about her grandmother—a Holocaust survivor and post-war advocate for remembrance and tolerance. A moving inter-generational journey of understanding and love.

Perre, Selma Van de. My Name Is Selma. Scribner. 2020.

An assumed identity spells survival for a Jewish teenager who worked, and was imprisoned, for the Resistance.

Shulevitz, Uri. Chance: Escape from the Holocaust. Farrar. 2020.

The renowned illustrator shares the story of his survival in the face of great terror. (Accessible to middle school and less-proficient high school readers.)

To Auschwitz & Back. Dreamscape. 2017. 47 min.

At the age of 90, Joe Engel shares the story of his experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto, Birkenau, and Auschwitz, his escape from imprisonment, his efforts as a freedom fighter, and his post-war resettlement in Charleston, SC.

Toll, Nelly S. Behind the Secret Window. Puffin. 1993.

Words, watercolors, and photographs tell a powerful story of one young girl's struggle to survive.

Website Resources

(A Note to Teachers: Some websites claiming to be about the Holocaust are actually the work of those who seek to minimize or deny it. Your review of web resources is essential to your students' learning. The websites listed here have been reviewed for authenticity and accuracy.)

<https://echoesandreflections.org/teach/?src=hp>

Echoes and Reflections

Lesson Plans and other Holocaust Education resources.

<http://iwitness.usc.edu/SFI/>

With over 1500 video testimonies, activities, and multimedia resources, the newly-redesigned IWitness provides educators and students with tools to work with testimony. See especially "Hiding," "Survival," and "Liberation." Educators can build custom activities or use already-prepared activities, and students can build their own videos, word clouds and much more.

<https://mjhnyc.org/education/museum-of-jewish-heritage-holocaust-curriculum/>

Virtual lessons and curriculum guides from the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

<http://www.museumoftolerance.com/education/teacher-resources/>

Excellent resource includes documents, eyewitness accounts, and historical background. Includes “36 Question About The Holocaust”:

<http://www.museumoftolerance.com/education/teacher-resources/holocaust-resources/36-questions-about-the-holocaust.html>

www.socialstudies.com

Social Studies School Service
Source for classroom materials on the Holocaust.

www.ushmm.org

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

A wealth of research and testimony on the Holocaust and contemporary genocide, including this link to introductory information, useful maps, and a timeline of events: <http://www.ushmm.org/learn>. See especially: “Survivor Reflections and Testimonies” <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/holocaust-reflections-testimonies> .

<https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-materials.html>

Educational materials (lesson plans, videos, etc.) from Yad Vashem. Includes powerful online exhibitions (<http://www.yadvashem.org/exhibitions>) and other contest-relevant resources.

See also the Yad Vashem playlist for filmed Holocaust testimonies at https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=yad+vashem+testimonies