

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND ABOVE

BENNO AND THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS – MEG WIVIOTT

FICTION

A neighborhood cat observes the changes in German and Jewish families in its town during the period leading up to Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass that becomes the true beginning of the Holocaust. This cats-eye view introduces the Holocaust to children in a gentle way that can open discussion of this period.

BRUNDIBAR – TONY KUSHNER AND MAURICE SENDAK

FICTION

Based on a Czech opera for children that was performed 55 times by the children of the Terezin concentration camp, this is the tale of two children bullied by a bellowing hurdy-gurdy grinder, while trying to earn money to buy milk for their sick mother. This adventure tale of children assisted by talking animals is also a story about surviving tyranny.

CHAMPION OF CHILDREN: THE STORY OF JANUSZ KORCZAK – TOMEK BOGACKI

NON-FICTION

In 1912, a well-known doctor and writer, Janusz Korczak, designed an unusual orphanage for Jewish children in Warsaw, Poland. He encouraged the orphans to elect a parliament, run a court, and create their own newspaper. With Hitler's invasion of Poland, Korczak was forced to move the orphanage into the Warsaw Ghetto. This book highlights his commitment to his children in the face of the difficult events to come.

FRIEDRICH – HANS RICHTER

FICTION

Told in the first person, this autobiographical novel describes the friendship between two German boys, one Jewish and one not, and what happens to that relationship after the Nazis come to power and the non-Jewish boy's father joins the Nazi party. The story is simple and easy to read, but a dramatic and powerful account, told from a child's perspective.

HANA'S SUITCASE – KAREN LEVINE

NON-FICTION

In March 2000, Fumiko Ishioka, the curator of a small Holocaust education center in Tokyo, received an empty suitcase from the museum at Auschwitz. On it were the words "Hana Brady, May 16, 1931, Orphan." Fumiko and the children at the center were determined to find out who Hana was and what happened to her, leading them to a startling discovery.

IRENA SENDLER AND THE CHILDREN OF THE WARSAW GHETTO – SUSAN GOLDMAN

NON-FICTION

Irena, a young, Catholic social worker living in Warsaw during World War II, Irena joined the resistance movement of the Polish Socialist party. As she watched the city's Jewish population being confined to the Warsaw Ghetto, Sandler, disguised as nurse, dedicated her life to saving Jewish children before they could be sent off to Treblinka.

NUMBER THE STARS – LOIS LOWRY

FICTION – NEWBERY AWARD WINNER

As the German troops began their campaign to "relocate" the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in her best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden.

PASSAGE TO FREEDOM – KEN MOCHIZUKI

NON-FICTION

Five year old Hiroki Sugihara tells of how his father saved the lives of 10,000 Jews while he was serving as a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania in 1940. Going against government orders, he sat night after night, handwriting exit visas for people trying to escape from the Nazis. This is a story of rescue and resistance.

TERRIBLE THINGS – EVE BUNTING

ALLEGORY

This book is based on a quote from Reverend Niemoller, a German Protestant minister during the Holocaust. Little Rabbit lives peacefully with the forest animals until the Terrible Things come. At first, they take away the creatures with feathers. None of the other animals protest. This continues until the only creatures left are the white rabbits. When the Terrible Things come for the white creatures, Little Rabbit learns that it is important to stand up for what is right.

THE SNEETCHES – DR. SEUSS

ALLEGORY

In this classic collection of Dr. Seuss characters including the Sneetches, Zax, many Daves, and pale green pants with nobody inside them, readers learn lessons of tolerance and respect as they follow along on many adventures.

WHO WAS THE WOMAN WHO WORE THE HAT? – NANCY PATZ

NON-FICTION

Nancy Patz visited the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam. While viewing the Holocaust exhibit, she saw a woman's hat on display in a glass case. She drew the hat in her sketchbook and continued on her tour. Over time, Patz drew more pictures and wrote poems reflecting on who the woman was. She soon realized that the drawings and poems created a reflection of the woman, and through her, other victims of the Holocaust.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ABOVE**ANNE FRANK: DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL**

NON-FICTION

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, and the threat of discovery and death.

CHILDREN AND FIRE – URSULA HEGI

FICTION

Thekla Jansen, a gifted young teacher, loves her students and tries to protect them from the chaos beyond their village. Believing the Nazis' new regime will not last forever, Thekla begins to relinquish some of her freedoms to keep her teaching position. She has always taken her moral courage for granted, but when each compromise chips away at that courage, she knows she must reclaim it.

DANIEL'S STORY – CAROL MATAS

FICTION

In *Daniel's Story*, a young Jewish boy looks back on his life in Hitler's Germany. His family is forced from their home in Frankfurt and sent to the Lodz ghetto in Poland, and then to Auschwitz, the Nazi death camp. Although Daniel is a fictitious character, his story is based on the experiences of the over one million children who died in the Holocaust.

HITLER YOUTH – SUSAN BARTOLETTI

NON-FICTION

On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany, with the help of the Hitler Youth, whose organized marches throughout Germany helped the Nazi Party grow in strength. *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* is the tale of this generation of young people who left an indelible mark on world history.

I NEVER SAW ANOTHER BUTTERFLY – HANA VOLAVKOVA (ED.)

ANTHOLOGY

A memorial to the children of Terezin, the collages, paintings, drawings, and poems published in this selection are impressive for their artistic merit and their value in documenting the feelings and lives of children in the camp. Some prior knowledge of what life in the camps was like will make these pieces more meaningful to students.

KINDERTRANSPORT – OLGA LEVY DRUCKER

NON-FICTION

Born in Germany in 1927, Olga Levy was one of the many Jewish children evacuated from Germany to England during 1938 and 1939. She was separated from her parents for six years, until they were reunited in the United States in 1945. The book concludes with the reunion of former Kindertransport children in London in 1989.

NAZI OLYMPICS – SUSAN BACHRACH

NON-FICTION

During the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, the German Nazi Party attempted to turn the Games into a propaganda vehicle for its own political agenda. This book profiles the organizers, the politicians, and most important, the athletes: those who boycotted the games, those who were banned from participating, and those who competed.

PARALLEL JOURNEYS – ELEANOR AYERS

NON-FICTION

Alternating chapters contrast the wartime experiences of two young Germans—Helen Waterford, who was interned in a Nazi concentration camp, and Alfons Heck, a member of the Hitler Youth. The book contains excerpts from their published autobiographies, given context through Ayer's historical overview of the era.

TELL THEM WE REMEMBER – SUSAN BACHRACH

NON-FICTION

Susan Bachrach tells the story of the Holocaust, in brief, thematic segments illustrated by artifacts and historical photographs. Around the margins of the pages are the personal stories of more than 20 young people of diverse social and religious backgrounds and nationalities whose lives were impacted by the Holocaust.

THE HIDING PLACE: THE TRIUMPHANT TRUE STORY OF CORRIE TEN BOOM –**CORRIE TEN BOOM, JOHN AND ELIZABETH SHERRILL**

NON-FICTION

In her first 50 years, nothing out of the ordinary had happened to Corrie ten Boom. She was an unmarried watchmaker living with her sister and their elderly father in the tiny Dutch house over their shop. The Nazi invasion and occupation of Holland in 1940, changed everything. Corrie ten Boom and her family became leaders in the Dutch Underground, hiding Jewish people in their home. For their help, all but Corrie found death in a concentration camp.

THE ISLAND ON BIRD STREET – URI ORLEV

FICTION

How does an 11-year-old Jewish boy survive alone in a Warsaw ghetto? It takes thought, skill and hope. In this book, translated by Uri Orlev (who grew up himself in Warsaw and survived two years in Bergen-Belsen), Alex is told to wait for his father. Even though he has opportunity to find safety, he stays on, waiting for his father.

THE UPSTAIRS ROOM – JOHANNA REISS

FICTION – NEWBERY AWARD WINNER

When the German army occupied Holland, Annie de Leeuw, eight years old and Jewish, was in great danger. A Gentile family, the Oostervelds, offered to help. For two years they hid Annie and her sister, Sini, in the cramped upstairs room of their farmhouse. For Annie and Sini, separated from their family,— the war seemed to go on forever.

HIGH SCHOOL AND ABOVE**ALL BUT MY LIFE – GERDA WEISSMAN KLEIN**

NON-FICTION

Teenage Gerda's quiet life was shattered when the Nazis marched into Poland on September 3, 1939. Over time, the family members were separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years, Gerda experienced the slow, stripping away of "all but her life." By the end of the war, she had lost her home, family and community.

I HAVE LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS: GROWING UP IN THE HOLOCAUST – LIVIA BITTON–JACKSON

NON-FICTION

This Holocaust memoir describes what happened to a Jewish girl who is 13 when the Nazis invade Hungary in 1944. She tells of a year of roundups, transports, selections, camps, torture, forced labor, and shootings, then of liberation and the return of a few... A brief chronology of the Holocaust adds to the value of this title for curriculum use with older readers.

MAUS I AND II – ART SPIEGELMAN

GRAPHIC NOVEL, PULITZER PRIZE

Maus tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story. *Maus* approaches the unspeakable through the diminutive. Its form, the cartoon (the Nazis are cats, the Jews mice), succeeds in "drawing us closer to the bleak heart of the Holocaust" (*The New York Times*).

NIGHT – ELIE WIESEL

NON-FICTION

Night describes Elie Wiesel's life before the Nazi invasion, his trip in the cattle car and his experiences and observations in Auschwitz. Aside from describing the horrors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, Night addresses many of the philosophical and personal questions about what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be.

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WALL – VLADKA MEED

NON-FICTION

Vladka Meed, or Feigele Peltel-Miedzyrzecki, her real full name, was 17 when Hitler's army conquered Poland and entered Warsaw. From the first days of the Nazi occupation, Feigele was transformed into "Vladka" when she began her work on the Aryan side with the underground movement. Vladka smuggled weapons across the wall to the Jewish Fighting Organization, helped Jews escape and find shelter and brought help to Jews in bunkers and other hiding places.

REFUGE DENIED: THE ST. LOUIS PASSENGERS AND THE HOLOCAUST—OGILVIE AND MILLER NON-FICTION

Although the episode of the *St. Louis* is well known, the actual fates of the passengers, once they disembarked, slipped into historical obscurity. Sarah Ogilvie and Scott Miller of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum set out in 1996 to discover what happened to each of the 937 passengers. *Refuge Denied* chronicles the unraveling of the mystery, from Los Angeles to Havana and from New York to Jerusalem.

SCHINDLER'S LIST – THOMAS KENEALLY NON-FICTION

During the Holocaust at the German concentration camp near Plaszow, thousands of Jews lost their lives at the hands of the Nazis. More than a thousand others would have been among them if not for an industrialist and Nazi Party member, Oskar Schindler. *Schindler's List* tells how he used his fortune to build a factory and save the lives of over 1,300 Jews.

THE BIELSKI BROTHERS: THE TRUE STORY OF THREE MEN WHO DEFIED THE NAZIS, BUILT A VILLAGE IN THE FOREST, AND SAVED 1,200 JEWS – PETER DUFFY NON-FICTION

In 1941, three brothers witnessed their parents and two other siblings being led away to their murders. The three brothers -- Tuvia, Zus, and Asael Bielski -- fought back, waging a guerrilla war of wits against the Nazis. By using their knowledge of the forests surrounding the Belarusan towns of Novogrudek and Lida, the Bielskis evaded the Nazis and established a hidden base camp, providing safety and shelter for Jews in their community in the woods.

THE DIARY OF PETR GINZ – CHAVA PRESSBURGER (ED.) NON-FICTION

As a fourteen-year-old Jewish boy living in Prague in the early 1940s, Petr Ginz kept a diary that captured the increasing danger of daily life. His paintings, drawings, and writings reflect his appetite for learning and experience and display his growing artistic and literary genius. Petr was killed in a gas chamber at Auschwitz at the age of sixteen.

ADDITIONAL ADULT READING

A HOLOCAUST READER – LUCY DAWIDOWICZ

BECOMING EVIL – JAMES WALLER

BLACK EARTH – TIMOTHY SNYDER

BLOODLANDS – TIMOTHY SNYDER

DENIAL – DEBORAH LIPSTADT

DR. SEUSS GOES TO WAR – RICHARD MINEAR

MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING – PRIMO LEVI

NEIGHBORS – JAN GROSS

ORDINARY MEN – CHRISTOPHER BROWNING

SURVIVAL IN AUSCHWITZ – PRIMO LEVI

THE LOST – DANIEL MENDELSON

THE READER – BERNHARD SCHLINK

WAR AND GENOCIDE – DORIS BERGEN