

Children's Books about the Holocaust

by Gay Ramsey, Resource Assistant

The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education Resource Center has materials that enable students to become aware of the tragic outcomes of bigotry and hatred without exposing them to graphic content. Here are some of the books you can check out that may be suitable for upper elementary-age students:

Child of the Warsaw Ghetto by [David A. Adler](#)

The personal biography of a young boy named Froim Baum is used to tell the story of the Nazis' rise to power, the occupation of Poland, and the death camps.

Jacob's Rescue: A Holocaust Story by [Malka Drucker](#) and [Michael Halperin](#)

This fictionalized account of true events tells the story of two young brothers who were rescued from the Warsaw ghetto in Poland and hidden by a non-Jewish family. This dramatic tale illustrates to children the sacrifices made and hardships felt by people of conscience during the Holocaust. Illustrated with authentic photographs.

The Number on My Grandfather's Arm by [David A. Adler](#)

A little girl questions a number printed on her grandfather's arm and he explains how he received it in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story by [Ken Mochizuki](#)

A portrait of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania in 1940, that explains how he used his powers—against the orders of his own government—to help thousands of Jews escape the Holocaust, actions that resulted in the imprisonment and disgrace of his entire family.

Terrible Things by [Eve Bunting](#)

The animals of the forest are carried away, one type after another, by the Terrible Things, not realizing that if perhaps they would all stick together and not look the other way, such terrible things might not happen.

The Featherbed Journey by [Paula Kurzband Feder](#)

After Rachel and Lewis retrieve the feathers that escaped when they tore their grandmother's pillow, Grandma explains its special significance. This story of the Holocaust—a composite of Feder's own relatives' experiences—presents the period and place with both tension and hope.

Lily Cupboard: A Story of the Holocaust by [Shulamith Levey Oppenheim](#)

Miriam, a young Jewish girl, is forced to leave her parents and hide with strangers in the country during the German occupation of Holland.

Journey to America by [Sonia Levitin](#)

This 150-page novel describes the story of a Jewish family that flees Germany to Switzerland. But even there, the poor Platt family endures several hardships and finally decides to secure passage to America. The novel explains why many Jews remained in Europe during the Holocaust, despite the difficulties.

One Yellow Daffodil: A Hanukkah Story by David A. Adler

Putting his war-torn childhood out of his mind and concentrating on his flower shop, Holocaust survivor Morris Kaplan is invited by his favorite customers to spend Hanukkah with their family and finds the courage to face his past.

The Grey Striped Suit: How Grandma and Grandpa Survived the Holocaust by Jacqueline Jules

Young Frannie discovers a prison uniform in her grandparents' attic and begins a search for the truth about her family's history in Europe during the Holocaust. Illustrated with several full-page pen-and-ink drawings.

Hiding from the Nazis by David A. Adler

This is the story of Lore Baer, who, as a four-year-old Jewish child, was separated from her parents and sent to live with a Christian farming family in the Netherlands to escape capture by the Nazis.

Other books for elementary students to choose from in the MCHE Resource Center include:

The Children We Remember by Chana Byers Abells, *I Am a Star: Child of the Holocaust* by Inge Auerbacher, *Twenty and Ten* by Claire Hutchet Bishop, *Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate* by Janice Cohn, *A Lesson of Love from the Holocaust* by Robert O. Fisch, *The Hidden Children* by Howard Greenfield, *Joseph and Me: In the Days of the Holocaust* by Judy Hoffman, *Light from the Yellow Star: Rose Blanche* by Roberto Innocenti, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, and *Raoul Wallenberg* by Michael Nicholson and David Winner.