

**LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST:
COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION, APATHY, AND DENIAL**

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

We cannot understand [the Holocaust], but we must understand from where it springs, and we must be on our guard. If understanding is impossible, knowing is imperative, because what happened could happen again. –Primo Levi (Chemist, Writer, Survivor)

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.**

General Holocaust 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.

When Even Inaction Is Action: Instigators, Collaborators, Enablers, and Bystanders

Altman, Linda Jacobs. Forever Outsiders: Jews and History from Ancient Times to August 1935. Blackbirch Press. 1998.

Traces the history of antisemitic hatred from its earliest expression to Hitler's designation as Fuhrer and the eve of the Nuremberg Laws. Examines the role of bystander as well as perpetrator. Well-illustrated and accessible. (See also in this Holocaust series: Sherrow, Victoria. Smoke to Flame: September 1925-December 1938. Blackbirch. 1998.)

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow. Scholastic. 2005.

"I begin with the young," said Hitler, "...With them I can make a new world." Includes profiles of youth who joined and resisted the movement.

Dern, Alan. The Hitler Youth 1933-1945. Osprey. 2006.

A concise outline of the indoctrination and para-militarization of the Hitler Youth, and the resistance efforts of a small number of the Reich's young people.

Final Account. Universal. 2021. 94 min.

A critically important film, crafted over ten years, of interviews with the last living generation of "everyday people" who participated in the Third Reich. Denial, regret, and a warning for the future characterize these first-person accounts.

United States and the Holocaust. PBS. 2022. 360 min.

Filmmaker Ken Burns explores “how the American people and leaders responded to one of the greatest humanitarian disasters of the twentieth century, and how this catastrophe challenged America's identity as a nation of immigrants and the very ideals of democracy.”

What Our Fathers Did: A Nazi Legacy. Oscilloscope. 2016. 92 min.

Two sons face their fathers’ roles as perpetrators in this powerful and important documentary.

Holocaust Survivor Testimony: To Be A Witness

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.)

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.

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.

Ebert, Lily and Forman, Dov. Lily’s Promise. HarperOne. 2022.

When the pandemic brings a pause to in-person classroom visits, TikTok content creator Dov Forman encourages his great-grandmother Lily to set her story of survival to paper instead.

Hopkinson, Deborah. We Must Not Forget: Holocaust Stories of Survival and Resistance. Scholastic Focus. 2021.

Testimonies from across Europe paint a portrait of diverse youth experiences of persecution, resistance, and survival. Includes archival photos and documentation. Accessible to middle school- and less-proficient high school readers.

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

Survivor narratives with compelling portraits.

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 granddaughter'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.

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.

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.

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.

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://antisemitism.adl.org>

Antisemitism Uncovered: A Guide to Old Myths in a New Era

An overview of historical and contemporary antisemitism, and actions to be taken to counter its resurgence, from the Anti-Defamation League.

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

Echoes and Reflections

Lesson Plans and other Holocaust Education resources. See especially the lessons, handouts, and video testimony in Unit II: Antisemitism and Unit XI: The Gringlas Unit on Contemporary Antisemitism.

<https://itstartedwithwords.org>

#ItStartedWithWords

Survivor testimony reflects on the transition from words to violence by neighbors, teachers, classmates, etc., during the Holocaust. Includes additional resources on Anti-Semitism.

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

With over 1500 video testimonies, activities, and multimedia resources, IWitness provides educators and students with tools to work with testimony. Recordings bearing witness to the Holocaust are available under dozens of headings, including “Anti-Semitism,” “Contemporary Anti-Semitism,” “Discrimination,” “Stereotypes,” “Bystanders,” and “Perpetrators.” 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 from the Museum of Tolerance includes documents, eyewitness accounts, and historical background. See especially “Antisemitism: A Historical Survey.”

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 also the Museum’s extensive resources for educators:

<https://www.ushmm.org/teach>

<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

