

LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST THEN AND NOW: THE ROLE OF UPSTANDERS

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

In those times there was darkness everywhere. In heaven and on earth, all the gates of compassion seemed to have been closed. The killer killed and the Jews died and the outside world adopted an attitude either of complicity or of indifference.

Only a few had the courage to care. These few men and women were vulnerable, afraid, helpless - what made them different from their fellow citizens?... Why were there so few?... Let us remember: What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander... --Elie Wiesel

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.

On Upstanders & Survivors

Children of Chabannes. 93 min. Docurama. 2005.

In Chabannes, France, 400 Jewish children were housed in a chateau/school. Former students and teachers and residents relate here the efforts to protect the children when the war came to their town.

Children Without a Shadow: A Story of the Resilience of the Spirit. 60 min. SISU. 2014.

Examines the impact of young lives spent in hiding, reliant on the actions of others to survive.

Cohen-Janca, Irene. Mister Doctor: Janusz Korczak & the Orphans of the Warsaw Ghetto. Annick. 2015.

The story of Janusz Korczak, the beloved director of the Warsaw Ghetto orphanage who would famously sacrifice his own life to be with his children to their end, is told here with stunning illustrations by Maurizio A.C. Quarello.

(Accessible to middle school and less-proficient high school readers.)

Fredman, Marion Seidemann. A Time to Hide: Based on a True Story of Survival During the Holocaust. Collective Book Studio. 2026.

One family's experience in hiding told in scrapbook style with photos, maps, and other documentation.

(Accessible to middle school and less-proficient high school readers.)

Gershman, Norman H. Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews in World War II. Syracuse University Press. 2008.

The collected accounts of Muslims in Albania and Kosovo who sheltered both Jewish neighbors and those fleeing other countries throughout Europe.

Gilbert, Martin. The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust. Henry Holt. 2003.

Martin Gilbert's extensive research explores the stories of ordinary citizens across occupied countries who risked all to save others.

The Hidden Child. 60 min. PBS Home Video. 2007.

Only 100,000 Jewish children survived the Holocaust; almost 2 million were murdered. This is the story of Maude Dahme whose childhood in hiding in the Netherlands meant her survival.

Hurowitz, Richard. In the Garden of the Righteous: The Heroes Who Risked Their Lives to Save Jews During the Holocaust. HarperCollins. 2023.

The stories of ten who defied authority, built underground networks, and provided hiding places and safe passage to those in need.

Mazzeo, Tilar J. Irena's Children: Young Readers Edition. Margaret K. McElderry. 2016.

The remarkable story of one social worker, Irena Sendler, who smuggled over 2,000 children out of the Warsaw Ghetto, enlisting others outside Ghetto walls to provide ongoing protection.

(Accessible to middle school and less-proficient high school readers.)

Moorhouse, Roger. The Forgers: The Forgotten Story of the Holocaust's Most Audacious Rescue Operation. Basic. 2023.

Ten thousand forged passports, hundreds (perhaps thousands) of lives saved. First-hand accounts and survivor testimonies tell the story of the Lados Group.

Opdyke, Irene Gut. In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer. Anchor Books. 1999.

Forced into service to Poland's Nazi invaders at the age of 16, Updyke used her work in the clubs and households of German officers to facilitate resistance, smuggling food, information, and Jewish ghetto residents. This is her story in her own words.

Paldiel, Mordecai. The Righteous Among the Nations. Harper Collins. 2007. Profiles approximately 200 of those enshrined at Yad Vashem as the Righteous, rescuers from many nations and many faith traditions.

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.)

Ruelle, Karen Grey. The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews During the Holocaust. Holiday House. 2009.

At a time when there was little safety in Paris, the Grand Mosque served as a place of temporary refuge.

(Accessible to middle school and less-proficient high school readers.)

Sis, Peter. Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued. Norton. 2021.

A young Englishman in Prague saves 700 Jewish children; one of those children was Vera Gissing. (Peter Sis's award-winning talent for writing and illustration bring these stories to life in a format accessible to middle school and less-proficient high school readers.) For a more comprehensive account of Nicholas Winton's life and work, see Winton, Barbara. One Life: The True Story of Sir Nicholas Winton and the Prague Kindertransport. Pegasus. 2024.

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. See especially the lessons, handouts, and video testimony in Unit VIII: Rescue and Righteous Among the Nations.

<https://iwitness.usc.edu>

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 "Choice/Dilemma," "Empathy," "Hiding," "Rescuers/Aid," and "Resistance." 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.

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, including "Women of Valor: Stories of Women Who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust."

See also the Yad Vashem playlist for filmed Holocaust testimonies at

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=yad+vashem+testimonies