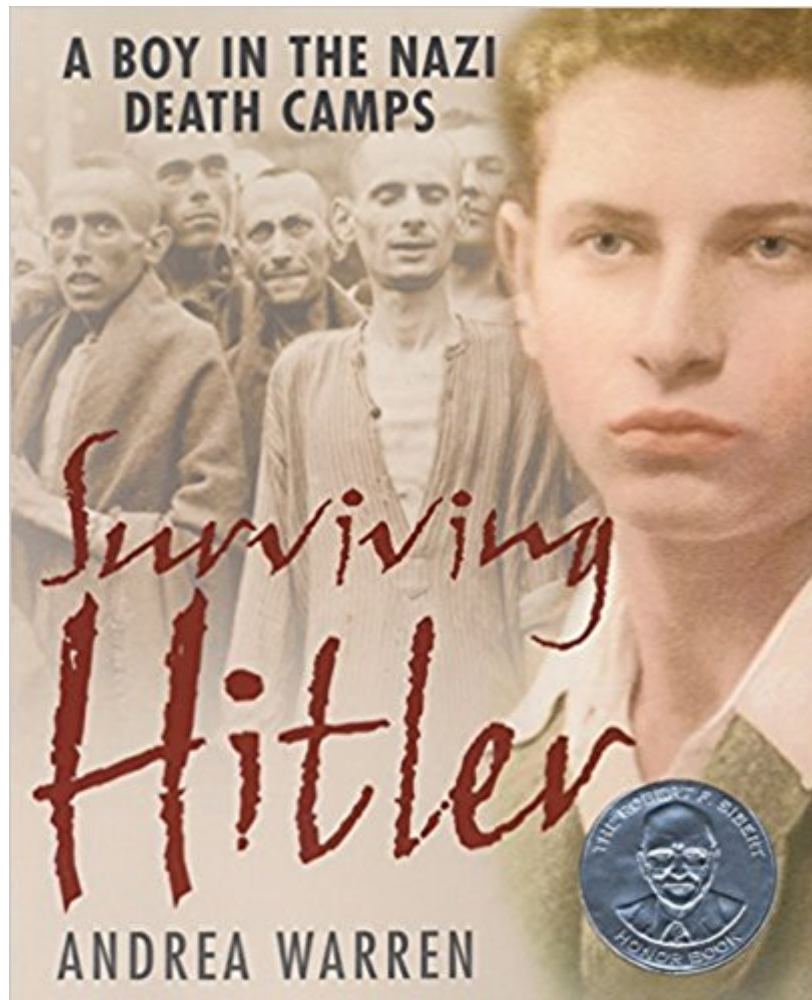




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Surviving Hitler: A Boy In The Nazi Death Camps



Synopsis

Award-winning author Andrea Warren presents a life-changing story of a young boy's struggle for survival in a Nazi-run concentration camp. In this Robert F. Silbert Honor Book, narrated in the voice of Holocaust survivor Jack Mandelbaum, readers will glimpse the dark reality of life during the Holocaust, and how one boy made it out alive. When twelve-year-old Jack Mandelbaum is separated from his family and shipped off to the Blechhammer concentration camp, his life becomes a never-ending nightmare. With minimal food to eat and harsh living conditions threatening his health, Jack manages to survive by thinking of his family. Supports the Common Core State Standards

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820 (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 134 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #15 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars #58 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-Through the words and memories of Jack Mandelbaum, Warren presents a harrowing account of a Jewish boy's experience in Nazi prison camps. Mandelbaum had lived a comfortable life with his family in Gdynia, Poland, until the German invasion forced them to flee to a relative's village in 1939. Later, when the Jews were sent to concentration camps, the 12-year-old became separated from the rest of his family and wound up in the Blechhammer camp. By describing events through the boy's voice, the author does an excellent job of letting his words carry the power of the story. She avoids historical analysis, sticking to Mandelbaum's experiences, and brings readers into

the nightmarish world of the concentration camp with a strong feeling of immediacy. As with many stories of great suffering, some of the minor details, such as risking death to steal a jar of marmalade, deliver the most impact. Besides the physical hardship, Warren conveys how frustrating and confusing it was for a child in such an environment. Once liberated, the young man learned the sad fate of his family and as he ironically observed, had he known his parents and siblings would not survive, he might not have struggled so hard to live himself. Black-and-white contemporary photographs illustrate the book. This story works as an introduction to the Holocaust and will also interest readers of Lila Perl's *Four Perfect Pebbles* (Greenwillow, 1996), Anne Frank's diary, and other works on the period. Steven Engelfried, Deschutes County Library, Bend, OR Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 5-10. Simply told, Warren's powerful story blends the personal testimony of Holocaust survivor Jack Mandelbaum with the history of his time, documented by stirring photos from the archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Mandelbaum was 12 when the Nazis came to Poland in 1939. At first the thought of war was "thrilling." Then he saw his prosperous, happy home torn apart, and he spent three years as a teenager in the death camps in Germany, where he survived by a combination of courage, friendship, and luck. Warren, who never knew any Jews when she was growing up in a small Nebraska town, brings both passion and the distance of the outsider to the story. True to Mandelbaum's youthful viewpoint, she lets the story unfold slowly so readers don't know until the end what happened to Jack's mother and brother after they were separated, or whether his friends survived. The combination of Mandelbaum's experience and Warren's reporting of the whole picture makes this an excellent introduction for readers who don't know much about the history. There's only one false note. Unlike Anita Lobel's *No Pretty Pictures* (1998) and many other personal accounts, there's a radiant innocence here: everything "before" was blissful ("It was a lovely life"), and, even in the camps, Jack never has an ugly thought. The design is open and inviting with clear type, many photos, and an excellent multimedia bibliography. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I purchased this audio CD of *Surviving Hitler* to accompany the book. I work with students who often struggle with reading, but enjoy using audio books. This CD follows along with the text perfectly and is easy to navigate. So, readers can listen to the audio and follow along in the book to help with comprehension. It is good to listen to as a whole class or individually with headphones. *Surviving*

Hitler is a great read for students that are being introduced to the Holocaust as it is a straight forward story that is told quite simply. It is well suited for upper elementary school through high school depending on reading levels and maturity. The reader is not spared from the horrors of the Holocaust which helps readers to be able to empathize with the memoir of Jack. It would fit perfectly with a unit on the Holocaust or Holocaust based literature.

I own over 900 Holocaust books and I am very happy that I added this book to my collection. Jack was sent to the Blechhammer camp first, then to other camps. Jack, at the age of 12, was separated from his 15 yr. old sister, 7 yr. old brother and his mother when they first arrived at the camp. Jack's father was in another camp. No child should have to go through what Jack went through. Jack's story is well written and hard to put down. I bought the book months before it was released. I really enjoyed reading the book.

This book was an excellent first introduction to the horrors of the Nazi's. It was also a shining example of the strength and courage it took to survive. My daughter was touched to tears at the loss of Jack's family and the book led her to think about how important it is to stand up for those in need and against discrimination. She was able to draw conclusions about how important it is to understand the details of history to stop this from happening again.

Story of survival and friendship. Can't imagine having to grow up like this. I've visited Auschwitz-Birkenau and experienced much emotion at this bleak place. But still found it of educational value.

I liked this book for the fact it told a teen's side of the story. He got his point across without being as graphic as he could have been. It is time our children learn and understand what people went through during the war. Since history does repeat itself, I hope this is one event that doesn't. It should make us all think.

Great book

This book is just right for an introduction to the Holocaust. Delivery from was prompt.

My 13 year old had to read this for a report on a Holocaust survivor. It is a good book for not only

boys and girls, but I read it, as well. The young character gives a factual account of what he experienced as a prisoner to the Nazi regime. It is not too long and it ends with where he is today, which completes his story of survival!

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