

Reading Together

The following selections are recommended for grades 5-8, but you should always review the recommendation for its appropriateness for your child. There are significant differences in levels of maturity between grades 5 and 8.

Historical Overview

Smoke and Ashes by Barbara Rogasky

The Story of the Holocaust by Clive Lawton.

True Stories of the Holocaust and Genocide

Four Perfect Pebbles by Lila Perl and Marion

Blumenthal Lazan

I Have Lived a Thousand Years by Livia Bitton-Jackson

The Cage by Ruth Minsky Sender

Memories of Anne Frank: Reflections of a Childhood Friend by Alison Leslie Gold

The Other Victims by Ina R. Friedman

Heroes of the Holocaust by Arnold Geier

I Am A Star: Child of the Holocaust by Inge Auerbacher

The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig

Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipović

A Place to Hide: True Stories of Holocaust Rescues by Jayne Petit

We Are Witnesses: Five Teenage Diarists Who Died in the Holocaust by Jacob Boas

Kindertransport by Olga Levy Drucker

The Upstairs Room by Johanna Reiss

Ten Thousand Children by Anne Fox and Eva Abraham Podietz

Historical Fiction

Mottele by Gertrude Samuels

Friedrich by Hans Peter Richter

Twenty and Ten by Claire Huchet Bishop

Daniel's Story by Carol Matas

The Island on Bird Street by Uri Orlev

Devil in Vienna by Doris Orgel

Videos

Power of One

Miracle at Moreauux

A Friendship in Vienna

Miracle at Midnight

Nightmare: The Story of Joachim and Rachael

Into the Arms of Strangers

Kindertransport

Nightmare: The Immigration of Joachim and Rachael

PREJUDICE: Answering Children's Questions

Web sites

Stop the Hate <http://www.Stop-the-Hate.org>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

<http://www.ushmm.org>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org>

Genocide www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/genocide/index.html

Southern Poverty Law Center
www.SPLCenter.org



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Parents' Guide: Talking with your Middle School Child about Prejudice, Discrimination, Genocide and the Holocaust

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Prejudice, Discrimination, and Harassment

Our children see examples of this almost every day. Sadly, it is part of the world in which we all live. From the bully in the neighborhood to the horrors of an infamous tyrant, they are aware of the suffering caused by prejudice, discrimination, harassment and persecution. Significantly, they may have the opportunity to witness the real difference a friendly word, a helping hand, a courageous voice of protest can make when these things occur.

We all want to do what we can to keep our children healthy and happy, to protect them from the pain and anguish that life brings to each of us at times. We want to make them stronger and better people. How can we accomplish this goal? We need to work with our children to prepare them to handle that world and, hopefully, to become a positive force to make their world a safer, happier place to live.

Remember—You are your child's first teacher, her/his primary role model, and chief protector. As s/he begins to explore the larger world during these middle school years, your child needs you even as s/he struggles for independence. Your child is looking to you to help her/him become the strong, caring adult you want her/him to be.

A Few Things a Parent Can Do

- Be vigilant about changes in your child's behavior and attitudes.
- Monitor your child's use of the Internet and the computer games s/he plays. Computers are valuable tools in our world but they can also be dangerous pathways for your child to travel.
- Know your child's friends and meet the parents of their friends.
- Meet your child's teachers and school counselor.
- Be aware of your child's choices in television programs, movies and videos, and music and books.
- Set fair and consistent guidelines for curfews and activities.
- Give your child reasonable responsibilities of her/his own to fulfill.
- Guide your child in developing skills for making good decisions.
- **Listen** to your child's ideas and cares.

Talking with your child about the Holocaust and genocide...

- Avoid simple answers to complex questions and situations.
- Make careful distinctions about sources of information. Biography/ autobiography, nonfiction v. historical fiction, documentary v. docudrama, history v. denial of history, etc.
- Previewing materials is essential. Know the quality of the materials your child uses.
- Focus on the individual rather than the statistics. Remember, different people had different experiences.
- Do not compare pain and suffering. Show compassion and empathy for each person.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Activities To Do Together

1. Work **together** to solve problems.
2. Visit one (or more) of the following museums together and talk about what you see and learn at the museum.
 - a. The Irish Hunger Memorial in NYC
 - b. The Museum of Jewish Heritage in NYC
 - c. National Museum of the American Indian in NYC
 - d. Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty via Liberty Park, Jersey City, NJ or NYC
 - e. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC
3. Read a book with a multicultural and tolerance theme or about the Holocaust or a genocide. Discuss the impact the book has on each of you and what you learned from it.
4. Learn about local volunteer groups and programs and permit your children to select one in which the whole family will participate.
5. **Listen** to your child talk. What is occurring at school, in the neighborhood, with friends, etc. Learn what is important to your child.
6. Invite someone of a different background to join your family for a meal, a barbecue, or a holiday.
7. Take the family to an ethnic restaurant. Learn about the culture as well as the food.