Books for Kids: J-Nonfiction

Desert Diary: Japanese American Children Behind Barbed Wire by Michael O. Tunnell
We Had to Be Brave: Escaping the Nazis on the Kindertransport by Deborah Hopkinson
Brothers in Arms: A True World War II Story of Wojtek the Bear and the Soldiers Who Loved Him by Susan Hood
Unbreakable: The Spies Who Cracked the Nazis’ Secret Code by Rebecca E. Barone

Books for Kids: Biography

The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs by Chana Stiefel
We Must Not Forget: Holocaust Stories of Survival and Resistance by Deborah Hopkinson
Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust by Deborah Hopkinson
On the Horizon: The Story of Women Resistance during World War II by Jeremy Dronfield

Books for Kids: F-Jiction

A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus
Catherine’s War by Kate Albus
A Place to Belong by Liz Kessler
Hidden: A Child’s Story of the Holocaust by Loic Dauphiller
Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers Who Resisted the Nazis by K.R. Gaddy

Activity: Make a Card!

Do you know someone in the military? Perhaps someone in your family or a neighbor?
If so, show them your appreciation by making them a card!
1. Gather art supplies such as paper, markers, crayons, ribbons, stickers, etc.
2. Fold the piece of paper in half to make a card shape.
3. Use the supplies to make a creative cover. For example, make stars and stripes to represent the American flag.
4. Write a special note inside the cover thanking them for their service. You could also glue or draw a picture of both of you inside.

Homeschool parents can apply for PPLD’s new Educator Card!

Simply bring a copy of your Notice of Intent letter with your child’s name and address plus school district involved to any PPLD location. The card is valid for one year before requiring renewal, and allows for 50 check outs, with a loan period of six weeks and one renewal (if item is not on hold).

Books for Teens: Nonfiction

A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust by Albert Marrin
The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz by Jeremy Dronfield
The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler’s Ghettos by Judy Batalion

Fiction

The Light in Hidden Places by Sharon Cameron
The Librarian of Auschwitz by Sharon Cameron
Anna and the Swallow Man by Gaetan Savit
Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Fiction

Explore History: World War II

Pikes Peak Library District will be hosting the Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibition from Tue., Sept. 5 through Wed., Oct. 11 at East Library. PPLD is honored to be one of 50 libraries in the United States and the only library in Colorado to host the exhibit, which is brought to us from the American Library Association and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Developed from an exhibit that opened at the museum in April 2018, this traveling exhibit examines the American aspects of the Holocaust:
What did Americans know? What more could have been done?
It explores how all parts of American society – the government, organizations, the media, popular culture, and the general public – responded during the rise of the Nazi threat and as news of the genocide became publicly known. It is intended to encourage Americans across the country to reflect on and have conversations about this history and consider our responsibilities in the world today.

The exhibit is designed for a broad audience with special emphasis on middle school, high school, and college students. To learn more about the exhibition itself, visit ushmm.org/americans-ala.
We encourage parents/guardians with younger-aged children to still visit the exhibit and use the children’s bibliography to provide basic facts and information about the Holocaust. Please see resources below.

Resources for Parents, Teachers, and Educators

Family and Youth Programming Guide tiny.ppld.org/programming-guide
Family Exhibition Guide and Activity tiny.ppld.org/exhibition-guide
American and the Holocaust Online Exhibit tiny.ppld.org/online-exhibit
Teacher Guide: Exhibition visit Lesson Plan Featuring an Exploratory Activity tiny.ppld.org/teacher-guide
American and the Holocaust Graphic Organizer: Group Exploration and Individual Reflection tiny.ppld.org/group-exploration
Exploring Primary Sources for In-depth Engagement with Americans and the Holocaust tiny.ppld.org/engagement
Experiencing History: Americans and the Holocaust Collection tiny.ppld.org/collection

Additional Lesson Plans from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum tiny.ppld.org/lessons
To find these resources and more information about the exhibit and related programs, please visit ppld.org/HolocaustExhibit.
On a Gold-Blooming Day: Finding Fall Treasures by Buffy Silverman
Thinking about starting a nature journal? Families can read this photo-essay on plants and animals that can be seen in the fall and discuss species they might find outdoors. For another way to watch the seasons go by, consider taking digital photos at the same location month after month.
Ages 2 - 8; Nature Observation; Science Vocabulary J-508.2 SILV

Being a Cat: A Tail of Curiosity by Maria Gianferrari
Picture books sometimes have surprising and accurate information at the end, which readers don’t know about until they finish the story. With charming text and illustrations that provide insights into cat body language and behavior, this book ends with five pages of great information. Even cat-lovers may learn a few things!
Ages 3 - 8; House Cats; Behavior; Curiosity J-Easy

We Are Wolves by Katriona Nannestad
Oberndorf German families were in mortal danger as the Russian army marched into East Prussia at the end of World War II. Separated from their mother, Liesl, Otto, and baby sister Mia are forced to do difficult things — such as stealing food and clothing — just to stay alive.
Ages 8+; Children/orphans of WWII; Survival Teen Fiction

On January 10, 1942, one month after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States launched one of the most important domestic campaigns of the entire war: the “Salvage for Victory” drive. This initiative asked that all Americans collect, conserve, and recycle materials that could contribute to the military effort. This resulted in millions of tons of scrap metal, rope, paper, and more being collected.

Visit the National World War II Museum’s website to participate in Get Us in the Library. This site provides a variety of activities and information about the recycling and energy conservation efforts of students during World War II while inviting current-day students to positively impact the environment. The programs and activities are free.

National Archives DocsTeach
Visit this website to view primary sources (i.e., photographs, audio recordings, posters, etc.) from WWII, along with detailed descriptions. You can also access a variety of teaching activities based on primary documents.
docteach.org/topics/wwii

PBS Learning Media
Check here for PBS’s interactive lesson plans designed for grades 3 - 12. In addition, brief topical videos are presented and often accompanied by teacher support materials and discussion questions for students. pbs.org/wwii

Gale Ebooks: Europe Since 1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of War and Reconstruction
Appropriate for high school students and adults, this survey of European history from the beginning of World War I to the present is covered through alphabetically arranged entries that focus on the period’s scientific, social, cultural history, and political, military, and economic developments. tiny.ppld.org/age-of-war

Gale Ebooks: The World War II Reference Library
Geared toward high school students and adults, this resource provides information on major topics about the period, biographies of significant men and women involved in the war, and primary sources such as full or excerpted speeches, diary entries, newspaper accounts, and other original documents. tiny.ppld.org/wwii-reference

Gale in Context: Elementary
This database encourages elementary school students to gain comfort with research by delivering age-appropriate, reliable, curriculum-related content covering a broad range of subjects. It provides an entire topic area on World War II and Anne Frank. tiny.ppld.org/wwii-elementary

Kanopy
Kanopy showcases more than 30,000 of the world’s best films, including many documentaries that cover World War II and Anne Frank. kids.ppld.org/wwii-kanopy

Libraries are a powerful source of information and education. For students, teachers, and families alike, libraries provide resources that support learning and personal growth. Whether you are interested in World War II history, science, or cultural studies, there is something in the library for you. 

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